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Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Israeli Energy Ministry Delegation Holds Talks in Oman

TA1801182095 Jerusalem Government Press Office in English 18 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A delegation of experts from the Energy Ministry led by Yosi Lubton, director of the Natural Gas Authority in the Ministry, is in Oman this week for discussions on natural gas issues. This is the first time an official delegation from the Energy Ministry has participated in a conference in the Arab world on an energy issue. The conference is being held under the aegis of Oman's Petroleum Minister Sa'id Bin-Ahmad al-Shanfari.

Islamic Affairs

ICO Agriculture Ministers Hold Meeting in Tehran

Islamic Bank Representatives Speak

LD1501220595 Tehran IRNA in English 2122 GMT 15 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan. 16, IRNA—Agriculture ministers of member states of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) [ICO] continued the second day of their meeting here Sunday [15 January] concentrating on national and international assurances for food sufficiency, and agriculture development.

Speakers in the Sunday session of the representatives from the Islamic Development Bank, Sudan, Maghreb, Tunisia, Egypt, Iran, Pakistan, and the Chamber of Industries and Mines of the OIC.

The Islamic Development Bank said in its report to the conference today that food production in the majority of the Muslim states is unsatisfactory and that it has to be improved which, it said, would involve the flow of indigenous and foreign investments.

It added that financially, agriculture in the Muslim states has to cope with peculiar economic problems, foreign debts, export restrictions, unwise policies and unfavorable investment conditions.

The Iranian delegate at the conference said that to try to rely on petro-dollars as a means to ensure food security would be precarious and uncertain. He said petroleum exporting states would do better to seek mutual agro-investments on the basis of the relative advantages in each country of individual projects.

Common Islamic Market Approved

LD1601211595 Tehran IRNA in English 2019 GMT 16 Jan 9.

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan. 16, IRNA—The fourth ministerial conference of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) [ICO] here today approved Iranian proposal for establishment of a common Islamic market.

Jalal Rasulof, Iranian secretary-general of the fourth agriculture ministerial conference of the OIC, underlined that with the execution of this ratification the Islamic countries will be able to exchange their surplus crops among themselves.

Describing the outcome of the fourth ministerial conference of the OIC, Rasulof said that the conference stipulated that the permanent committee of food security and agricultural development will be established in Tehran and Iran will preside over the committee.

In his report, he indicated that the food imports of the member countries increased from some 12 million tons in the 1980s to some 20 million tons at present. He also anticipated that by the efforts of the member countries the current increase in the prices of the crops will be continued and it will reach to some ten percent increase in the year 2000.

Rasulof who is also Iranian deputy agriculture minister for planning said that the Islamic Republic of Iran in its report to the conference, announced that Iran has improved its agricultural products and by reduction in its imports has achieved food security.

Among other reports of the conference were trading of the agricultural crops, exchange of the information through some 33,000 data base centers of the member countries and development in the field of investments, he concluded.

The 3-day conference of the fourth ministerial meeting of the OIC opened in Tehran on Saturday with an speech by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Some 47 member countries participated at the conference.

Development Committee To Be Formed

LD1601223495 Tehran IRNA in English 2159 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan. 17, IRNA—By a proposal set forth by the Islamic Republic of Iran the permanent committee for food security and agricultural development of the ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] member states will be established.

The agriculture ministers of Sudan, Lebanon, Afghanistan, Brunei, Chad, Somalia, Iraq, Libya, and Palestinian ambassador to Tehran here today delivered speeches to the concluding session of the three-day agriculture ministerial conference of the ICO.

Iranian Minister of Agriculture 'Isa Kalantari here today presided over the concluding session of the agriculture ministerial conference of the ICO member countries.

Khamsa, the spokesman of the session said that agricultural development, food security, protection of natural resources, environment, storage of foodstuffs, and the role of trade and exchange of foodstuffs among the Islamic countries were among the topics negotiated by the agriculture ministers.

In the session, the foreign ministers of Afghanistan, Chad, Somalia, and the Palestinian ambassador to Iran, describing the situation in their countries, called for the participation and multilateral assistance of the community of Muslim nations to solve their countries' difficulties, Khamsa said.

The ministers underlined the fact that the political disputes have caused homelessnes for millions of Muslim peoples—malnutrition, starvation, and reduction in agricultural crops, in their countries, Khamsa added.

Khamsa also said that the Iraqi and Libyan agriculture ministers called for the assistance of the community of the Muslim nations to remove the economic sanctions against their countries by the United Nations.

In the continuation of the negotiations, the establishment of the permanent comittee for the agricultural development and food security were ratified.

Iran's Ahmad Khomeyni Meets ICO Chief

LD1501111295 Tehran IRNA in English 1038 GMT 15 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan. 15, IRNA—Son of the late Imam Khomeyni, Hojjat ol-Eslam Ahmad Khomeyni, urged proper utilization of agricultural potentials by the Islamic countries as the best means for development.

In a meeting with secretary general of Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) [ICO], Hamid Algabid, and a group of OIC agriculture ministers here Saturday [14 January], the hojjat ol-eslam, stressed that it was impossible to become independent in all fields, without attaining independence in the field of agriculture.

Regretting that the Islamic states did not make proper use of their massive capabilities and potentials in the field of agriculture, he referred to the strategic and vital role of agricultural produce for stengthening the Islamic states' foreign policies and said if Muslim countries had advanced economies, the situation of Muslims could be totally diferrent in Bosnia, Chechnya, and in the occupied Palestine.

He stressed that economic independence should begin from agriculture and that the industry based on assembly line of imported parts would not lead to proper development of the Islamic states.

Noting that self-sufficiency in agriculture was a prelude to self-sufficiency in other fields, the son of the late founder of the Islamic revolution said that if the Islamic states were economically independent, they would become independent in political, cultural and military fields too.

"Mutual cooperation between Islamic countries would pave the way for agricultual development of the Islamic states," he said and urged the OIC ministers to try their best to pave the path for further cooperation and joint ventures in the field of agriculture.

The OIC agriculture ministers are currently here to attend the fourth meeting of the organization which is to discuss issues related to provisions of an agreement on foodstuff, optimal use of facilities and resources, technological and research cooperation, elimination of problems, improvement of agriculture and enhancement of the volume of agricultural trade.

Jerusalem Committee Continues Meetings in Morocco

Musa Views Israeli Settlement Policy

NC1701084895 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 17 Jan 95

[Interview with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, leader of Egypt's delegation to the 15th session of the Jerusalem Committee in Morocco, by correspondent Muhammad 'Abd-al-Basir; place and date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Musa] We believe that this and future meetings of the Jerusalem Committee must be practical and without rhetoric and rampant flowery talk. We want an explicit resolution on definitive points, including the refusal to recognize any Israeli policy or measure concerning Jerusalem or any change in its demographic, geographic, or legal status; we want to send a clear message on this. Any change in Jerusalem runs counter to international law, the Geneva Convention, the peace accord, and the Madrid conference.

Therefore all countries should act within this context. We will ask the countries concerned to honor the agreement between the Palestinians and Israelis that Jerusalem is subject to negotiations. Since it is subject to negotiations, the current claims and the attempts to expand the settlements or change the shape of the city should not continue.

We will activate the Jerusalem fund to help the Palestinians' construction work in Jerusalem, because part of their problem is the lack of money while the Israeli construction is in full swing. We will also set up a mechanism for a speedy follow up so we will not have to wait for the periodic ministerial-level meetings of the Jerusalem Committee. We suggest that there should be a UN committee specializing in the Jerusalem issue like the Bosnia and other committees. Such a committee should meet, follow the situation, and brief the Jerusalem Committee on it, and we also could entrust it with any work on the issue.

[Unidentified correspondent] Have you discussed any other issues with the Arab foreign ministers on the sidelines of the Jerusalem Committee meetings?

[Musa] Of course there has been a discussion of the general Arab situation, the Yemeni-Saudi issue, the forthcoming meeting of the Damascus Declaration countries, the peace process, the [Israeli] settlement policy, and all Arab issues.

'Arafat Adviser Views Hassan Initiative

JN1701174295 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 17 Jan 95

[Interview with Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, adviser to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, by Yusuf al-Mahmud in Morocco; date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Mahmud] Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, adviser to His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat: What are the expected results of the Jerusalem Committee's session, which is being attended by President Yasir 'Arafat? You are also taking part in the work of the Palestinian delegation?

[Abu-Rudaynah] Brother Yusuf, you know that a final meeting will be held after an hour or an hour and a half. Yesterday, His Majesty King Hassan II, head of the Jerusalem Committee, opened the 15th session of the committee. Egypt, represented by its Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, also took part in it for the first time. His Majesty King Hassan II delivered the opening speech, urging the Arab and Islamic nations to extend every support to the issue of holy Jerusalem and to protect the land and the sanctities.

Brother President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] then delivered a speech in which he explained the dimensions, developments, and obstacles facing the peace process, particularly those pertaining to Jerusalem, such as settlement building, certain Israeli measures, and outstanding issues. President Abu-'Ammar focused on Jerusalem and the need to save the sanctities and the occupied Palestinian land. The Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] secretary general, then addressed the meeting. He urged the Arab and Islamic nations to extend every help and stressed the need for a unified position.

The meeting then ended and a closed meeting followed, during which His Majesty King Hassan II took an impodtant initiative, whose details will be disclosed in the final communique. Important measures will also be taken to save Jerusalem, the Palestinian institutions, and the Christian and Islamic holy places. The initiative will be announced during the final session.

As you know, President Abu-'Ammar, His Majesty King Hassan II, and Saudi Crown Prince 'Abdallah took part in the opening ceremony at (al-Khuwayn) University in the city of Ifrane and made a one-hour tour of the sections of the university. Brother Yusuf, as you know, lengthy meetings were held with the Egyptian foreign minister, who visited the brother president in the city of Fes. The president also received the ICO Secretary General Hamed Algabid and discussed with him what should be done to save Jerusalem and the holy places. He also received Jordanian Foreign Minister al-Kabariti. As you know, the final session will take place after one hour, and there is a draft final communique and recommendations by the Jerusalem Committee. As I have said, His Majesty King Hassan II exerted great efforts to launch a new, blessed initiative to save Jerusalem and the Islamic and Christian holy shrines.

[Al-Mahmud] Nabil Abu-Rudaynah: Do you expect the members of the Jerusalem Committee to make an international move, particularly since the sponsors of the conference, the United States and Russia, are UN Security Council member states?

[Abu-Rudaynah] Brother Yusuf, you know that a draft communique was formulated last night and was presented to the ministers and the formulation committee this morning. The most important point is that just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East will not prevail unless Israel withdraws from all the occupied Palestinian territories, foremost of which is holy Jerusalem, an integral part of the Palestinian territories occupied in 1967, as well as the need for its return to Palestinian sovereignty as capital of the state of Palestine.

[Al-Mahmud] We thank brother Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, adviser to President Yasir 'Arafat.

[Abu-Rudaynah] Thanks.

Syria, Iran Denounce Israeli Strategy

LD1801202595 Tehran IRNA in English 2003 GMT 18 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan. 18, IRNA—Iranian Foreign Ministry's director general for the Middle East and Northern Africa, Khounsari said in Maghreb on Wednesday [18 January] that the strategy of the occupier regime of Quds [Jerusalem] was the continuation of its ominous plans in the past.

In a meeting with Syrian minister of foreign affairs, Faruq al-Shara on the sideline of the 15th session of Quds committee in Maghreb, Khounsari said that the aggressive and expansionist policy of the Zionist regime proved the emptiness and hypocrisy of its peace [word indistinct].

He said that the members of the committee on Quds voiced concern about the critical condition in the occupied lands and regarded the situation there as disappointing.

Faruq al-Shara described the Zionist regime's hypocritical strategy in splitting the ranks of the Arabs as dangerous.

Al-Shara called for boosting cooperation between the states in the region to confront the aggressive policies of the Zionist regime.

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 27 Dec

NC1301090095

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 27 December edition of the Arabic-language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

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1. Labor Party, Figures Condemn Arrests of 'Adil Husayn
2. Writer Calls for Defining Extremism and Extremists
3. Muslim Brotherhood Members Arrested in Al-'Arish
4. Islamic Writer Pinpoints Real Enemies of Muslims
5. Islamic Writer Highlights Price Hikes, Violence

LABOR PARTY, FIGURES CONDEMN ARREST OF 'ADIL HUSAYN

This issue of AL-SHA'B continues to feature reports denouncing the arrest of Labor Party Secretary General 'Adil Husayn. In a 350-word statement on pages 1 and 6, the Labor Party expresses deep concern over his detention. It says that right from the beginning, the Labor Party noticed that the detention was not intended to arrive at the truth but to "repress and terrorize scholars" and take personal revenge, as testified to by the fact that Husayn was denied food and medicine. The statement says there was no reasonable justification for his detention. While it respects the law and is not against legal measures that ensure the supremacy of the law, the Party "rejects the arbitrary use of powers for political, partisan, or personal reasons." The party believes that the measures taken against Husayn show that "the Egyptian authorities cannot tolerate opposing views and provide the bare minimum of the guarantees required for running a sound political process." Moreover, it says, the government is unable to hold a national dialogue with the political powers in the country. The statement also says that the measures against Husayn and other figures and parties will not intimidate them or make them change their determination to fight corruption and defeatist policies. The statement says the Labor Party will continue to "uncover the points of weakness and shortcomings no matter who is responsible" and will continue to invoke the pan-Arab spirit and "cling to the Islamic shari'ah as a way of life and not merely worshipping." It holds the authorities responsible for the consequences of this "absurd policy" and argues that Husayn apparently was detained due to "his recent articles in which he called for unifying the ranks in face of foreign challenges." It seems that it is "impossible to unify the ranks of the corruptors with the honest people on a patriotic issue." The "corrupt and tyrannical Ruling Party can do without the honest people's services."

In an 800-word article on pages 1 and 6, AL-SHA'B chief editor Majdi Husayn says that "all popular and political circles are shocked by the unfair move against this Egyptian, Arab, and Islamic thinker." He maintains that unless "an opponent is tame and remains within the limited framework set by the ruling party, he is faced with all forms of torture." He ridicules the detention of a thinker of the caliber of Husayn on the basis of unconfirmed charges of possessing leaflets. He notes that the man in the street knows that this charge was fabricated because Husayn can write in AL-SHA'B whatever he wants so why should he resort to leaflets? Majdi Husayn asserts that the detention is "a fatal blow to democratic practice and is aimed not only at Husayn—notwithstanding the humiliation his detention entails for the nation and all opposition leaders—but is also "a blow to the political system and its credibility" and the possibility of allowing a minimum of democracy. He says that the detention is the "most cogent proof of what kind of dialogue the Ruling Party understands."

A 2,500 word report, occupying the whole of page 2 and prepared by Jamal Imbabi, 'Abd-al-Hayy Muhammad, and Tariq 'Abd-al-Hamid, cites various politicians, journalists, and union leaders who generally speak in the same vein, denouncing the incarceration of 'Adil Husayn. Some condemn the misleading policy of the authorities on this issue, others say Husayn is an honest citizen and a sincere patriot and that his writings express the conscience of the Egyptian people. Still others maintain that his arrest runs counter to democratic norms and is against the law.

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[Unidentified correspondent] Have you discussed any other issues with the Arab foreign ministers on the sidelines of the Jerusalem Committee meetings?

[Musa] Of course there has been a discussion of the general Arab situation, the Yemeni-Saudi issue, the forthcoming meeting of the Damascus Declaration countries, the peace process, the [Israeli] settlement policy, and all Arab issues.

'Arafat Adviser Views Hassan Initiative

JN1701174295 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 17 Jan 95

[Interview with Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, adviser to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, by Yusuf al-Mahmud in Morocco; date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Mahmud] Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, adviser to His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat: What are the expected results of the Jerusalem Committee's session, which is being attended by President Yasir 'Arafat? You are also taking part in the work of the Palestinian delegation?

[Abu-Rudaynah] Brother Yusuf, you know that a final meeting will be held after an hour or an hour and a half. Yesterday, His Majesty King Hassan II, head of the Jerusalem Committee, opened the 15th session of the committee. Egypt, represented by its Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, also took part in it for the first time. His Majesty King Hassan II delivered the opening speech, urging the Arab and Islamic nations to extend every support to the issue of holy Jerusalem and to protect the land and the sanctities.

Brother President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] then delivered a speech in which he explained the dimensions, developments, and obstacles facing the peace process, particularly those pertaining to Jerusalem, such as settlement building, certain Israeli measures, and outstanding issues. President Abu-'Ammar focused on Jerusalem and the need to save the sanctities and the occupied Palestinian land. The Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] secretary general, then addressed the meeting. He urged the Arab and Islamic nations to extend every help and stressed the need for a unified position.

The meeting then ended and a closed meeting followed, during which His Majesty King Hassan II took an impodtant initiative, whose details will be disclosed in the final communique. Important measures will also be taken to save Jerusalem, the Palestinian institutions, and the Christian and Islamic holy places. The initiative will be announced during the final session.

As you know, President Abu-'Ammar, His Majesty King Hassan II, and Saudi Crown Prince 'Abdallah took part in the opening ceremony at (al-Khuwayn) University in the city of Ifrane and made a one-hour tour of the sections of the university. Brother Yusuf, as you know, lengthy meetings were held with the Egyptian foreign minister, who visited the brother president in the city of Fes. The president also received the ICO Secretary General Hamed Algabid and discussed with him what should be done to save Jerusalem and the holy places. He also received Jordanian Foreign Minister al-Kabariti. As you know, the final session will take place after one hour, and there is a draft final communique and recommendations by the Jerusalem Committee. As I have said, His Majesty King Hassan II exerted great efforts to launch a new, blessed initiative to save Jerusalem and the Islamic and Christian holy shrines.

[Al-Mahmud] Nabil Abu-Rudaynah: Do you expect the members of the Jerusalem Committee to make an international move, particularly since the sponsors of the conference, the United States and Russia, are UN Security Council member states?

[Abu-Rudaynah] Brother Yusuf, you know that a draft communique was formulated last night and was presented to the ministers and the formulation committee this morning. The most important point is that just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East will not prevail unless Israel withdraws from all the occupied Palestinian territories, foremost of which is holy Jerusalem, an integral part of the Palestinian territories occupied in 1967, as well as the need for its return to Palestinian sovereignty as capital of the state of Palestine.

[Al-Mahmud] We thank brother Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, adviser to President Yasir 'Arafat.

[Abu-Rudaynah] Thanks.

Syria, Iran Denounce Israeli Strategy

LD1801202595 Tehran IRNA in English 2003 GMT 18 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan. 18, IRNA—Iranian Foreign Ministry's director general for the Middle East and Northern Africa, Khounsari said in Maghreb on Wednesday [18 January] that the strategy of the occupier regime of Quds [Jerusalem] was the continuation of its ominous plans in the past.

In a meeting with Syrian minister of foreign affairs, Faruq al-Shara on the sideline of the 15th session of Quds committee in Maghreb, Khounsari said that the aggressive and expansionist policy of the Zionist regime proved the emptiness and hypocrisy of its peace [word indistinct].

He said that the members of the committee on Quds voiced concern about the critical condition in the occupied lands and regarded the situation there as disappointing.

Faruq al-Shara described the Zionist regime's hypocritical strategy in splitting the ranks of the Arabs as dangerous.

Al-Shara called for boosting cooperation between the states in the region to confront the aggressive policies of the Zionist regime.

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 27 Dec

NC1301090095

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 27 December edition of the Arabic-language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Labor Party, Figures Condemn Arrests of 'Adil Husayn
2. Writer Calls for Defining Extremism and Extremists
3. Muslim Brotherhood Members Arrested in Al-'Arish
4. Islamic Writer Pinpoints Real Enemies of Muslims
5. Islamic Writer Highlights Price Hikes, Violence

LABOR PARTY, FIGURES CONDEMN ARREST OF 'ADIL HUSAYN

This issue of AL-SHA'B continues to feature reports denouncing the arrest of Labor Party Secretary General 'Adil Husayn. In a 350-word statement on pages 1 and 6, the Labor Party expresses deep concern over his detention. It says that right from the beginning, the Labor Party noticed that the detention was not intended to arrive at the truth but to "repress and terrorize scholars" and take personal revenge, as testified to by the fact that Husayn was denied food and medicine. The statement says there was no reasonable justification for his detention. While it respects the law and is not against legal measures that ensure the supremacy of the law, the Party "rejects the arbitrary use of powers for political, partisan, or personal reasons." The party believes that the measures taken against Husayn show that "the Egyptian authorities cannot tolerate opposing views and provide the bare minimum of the guarantees required for running a sound political process." Moreover, it says, the government is unable to hold a national dialogue with the political powers in the country. The statement also says that the measures against Husayn and other figures and parties will not intimidate them or make them change their determination to fight corruption and defeatist policies. The statement says the Labor Party will continue to "uncover the points of weakness and shortcomings no matter who is responsible" and will continue to invoke the pan-Arab spirit and "cling to the Islamic shari'ah as a way of life and not merely worshipping." It holds the authorities responsible for the consequences of this "absurd policy" and argues that Husayn apparently was detained due to "his recent articles in which he called for unifying the ranks in face of foreign challenges." It seems that it is "impossible to unify the ranks of the corruptors with the honest people on a patriotic issue." The "corrupt and tyrannical Ruling Party can do without the honest people's services."

In an 800-word article on pages 1 and 6, AL-SHA'B chief editor Majdi Husayn says that "all popular and political circles are shocked by the unfair move against this Egyptian, Arab, and Islamic thinker." He maintains that unless "an opponent is tame and remains within the limited framework set by the ruling party, he is faced with all forms of torture." He ridicules the detention of a thinker of the caliber of Husayn on the basis of unconfirmed charges of possessing leaflets. He notes that the man in the street knows that this charge was fabricated because Husayn can write in AL-SHA'B whatever he wants so why should he resort to leaflets? Majdi Husayn asserts that the detention is "a fatal blow to democratic practice and is aimed not only at Husayn—notwithstanding the humiliation his detention entails for the nation and all opposition leaders—but is also "a blow to the political system and its credibility" and the possibility of allowing a minimum of democracy. He says that the detention is the "most cogent proof of what kind of dialogue the Ruling Party understands."

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Discussing the unlawful arrest of Husayn, Dr. Muhammad Hilmi Murad, the Labor Party deputy leader and a regular writer in AL-SHA'B, in a 2,000-word article on page 5, elaborates in legal terms on the "unlawful" detention and procedures followed in this case. He says Husayn was arrested two months after the discovery of an envelope containing hostile leaflets stored over the airline seat where Husayn was sitting. He asks whether such a prominent patriotic figure and party leader can be detained on such grounds. He wonders if this is legal or humane treatment of a political party leader in a country "whose leaders allegedly practice democracy and respect human rights." He says that if such a noted journalist and party leader is treated in this way, how are helpless ordinary citizens treated?

WRITER CALLS FOR DEFINING EXTREMISM AND EXTREMISTS

In a 1,500-word article entitled "On Extremism and Extremists" on page 5, 'Abd-al-Mun'im Salim Jabarah notes that the Islamic Summit Conference in Casablanca and the Gulf Summit Conference in Manama discussed numerous issues, but placed special emphasis on the peace agreements with Israel and the issue of extremism and violence in the Arab and Islamic arenas. He says that at the Casablanca Summit all Islamic countries condemned terrorism and stressed their commitment not to support any movement that dons the Islamic garb to encourage terrorism. These countries also stated that terrorism and extremism have a negative impact on stability and development in the Islamic World. For its part, the Gulf Summit communique noted with great concern the growing phenomenon of extremism and stressed its total rejection and condemnation of all forms of terrorism, excuses, and motives. It called for confronting this subversive phenomenon because it contravenes true Islam and its tolerant shari'ah.

The writer argues that extremism is certainly an anathema to true understanding of religion and may spawn inimical repercussions threatening the entire society. This issue, he says, must be handled with wisdom, objectivity, and knowledge. However, if we are serious and honest about remedying this issue, we must "define what extremism is and who extremists are." To deal with this issue, he says, a council must be formed made up of authorities on jurisprudence and the tenets of Islam, and who are highly informed about the situation of the Muslims and the plots and plans of the enemies of Islam and Muslims. Members of this council must be noted for their integrity and enjoy the love, trust, and respect of the people. The rulers and ruled must accept the judgment of such a council. This is because there are parties such as the "Education Ministry, the government press writers, leftists, Marxists, and secularists," who "fight everything Muslim" and who oppose honest advocates of Islam under the "guise of fighting extremism and extremists." He maintains that the communiques released by the Casablanca and the Manama Summits condemning extremism and stressing the need to project the true image of Islam must not be just words. Otherwise they will only provide opportunities for certain factions to fight Islam and shari'ah under the slogan of fighting extremism and extremists. He notes that the Education Ministry dismissed dozens of the most honest and competent teachers on charges of extremism although the Egyptian judiciary acquitted them. This shows that this issue has to do with the policy that the ministry and the education minister are following. Moreover, the government information media—radio, television, and newspapers—propagate morbid ideas under the slogan of fighting extremism. He urges al- Azhar scholars to play a role and to associate the call for confronting extremism with a call for highlighting the true image of Islam and shari'ah. He calls on al-Azhar to help define extremism and extremists. Otherwise the current method of fighting extremism will only increase it.

MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD MEMBERS ARRESTS IN AL-'ARISH

A 150-word report on page 6 notes that the State Security Intelligence Service has arrested a number of Muslim Brotherhood members in al-'Arish. The report claims that they were tortured, whipped, and jailed for four days. It claims that they were referred to the State Security Prosecution on false accusations of disturbing public security and forming secret groups to overthrow the regime.

ISLAMIC WRITER PINPOINTS REAL ENEMIES OF MUSLIMS

In his 300-word boxed column entitled "This is Our Religion" published on AL-SHA'B's back page, Islamic Scholar Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali discusses the extensive furor over the issue of peace between the Arabs and Israel, and the deliberate obfuscation of the essence of the issue and the stances of both sides. He notes that the first Israeli prime minister, Ben Gurion, once said that "there can be no Israel without Jerusalem, and no Jerusalem without the temple." Al-Ghazali claims that the Israelis want to rebuild the temple on the debris of the al-Aqsa Mosque. He says that if the Israelis really want peace, they must declare their respect for the al-Aqsa Mosque, allow the Palestinian refugees to return home, and hand over their nuclear weapons to the United Nations. He maintains that the "Muslims do not want to harm the Jews" and if the Jews were threatened in any part of the world, the Muslims would be prepared to "open all the countries of the Islamic world to receive them to live among the Muslims and give them the same rights and duties." He claims that Israel is trying to deceive us and the whole world. While it claims to seek peace, it continues building its nuclear arsenal. He says that "Zionism and the Crusaders are not the archenemy of the Islamic world," but the archenemy lives among the Muslims on their land. The enemies are those Muslims who as a result of the "cultural invasion are creating a nation devoid of morals, religion, and shari'ah."

ISLAMIC WRITER HIGHLIGHTS PRICE HIKES, VIOLENCE

In his back page 600-word article, Muslim Brotherhood figure Muhammad 'Abd-al-Quddus stresses that 1994 is over but without the Egyptians enjoying any "relaxation of the economic crisis." He notes the soaring prices, food shortages, higher taxes, and rampant corruption. He claims hypocrisy toward the ruling regime has thrived and that the official media have reached the point of holding President Mubarak in divine reverence and considering him the hero of the October War. He wonders how a country can have freedom when its president is treated so reverently. He notes that in 1994, opposition students were banned from running for elections in universities. Citing official figures that there are 10,000 political detainees in Egypt, he says that our streets witnessed the most people killed by police in the world. He says Egypt is paying an exorbitant price in the blood of its sons for the regime's policy errors.

Political Islam Review: AL-NUR 1 Jan

NC1301093695

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 1 January edition of the Arabic-language newspaper AL-NUR that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Israel's Nuclear Power and Regional Imbalances
2. Conference Calls For Sensitizing Tourists About Proper Conduct
3. Al-Azhar Considering Appointing Woman to Fatwa Committee
4. Normalization Seen as Humiliation
5. Al-Azhar Official on Secularism, Headscarf, Culture

ISRAEL'S NUCLEAR POWER AND REGIONAL IMBALANCES

A 1,000-word article by Chairman of the Board al-Hamzah Di'bis on page 1 notes Yitzhaq Rabin's statements on the issue of Israel's nuclear weapons and his remark that President Mubarak, more than any Arab or Muslim leader, always discusses the issue. The writer says the issue "prompted the Zionist lobby to launch a campaign in American newspapers attacking Egypt and its leader and distorting its image."

The article cites an interview with Mubarak by Kuwait's AL-WATAN in which he said: "There is no sense or logic in letting a Middle Eastern state that is seeking peace with its neighbors build and expand its nuclear power, while denying other regional states the same right."

Di'bis says: "Islamic states' failure to furnish themselves with the factors of power, primarily the adoption of Islamic shari'ah" has led to such imbalances in the Arab-Israeli conflict. According to him, these imbalances are serious in that ultimately they will benefit Israel.

The writer says he believes it is reassuring that Field Marshal Tantawi occasionally asserts that the Armed Forces are alert and that the requirements of peace are as much as those of war. He says he hopes Egypt's preparations are at the same level as Israel's.

He thanks Mubarak for raising the issue of Israel's nuclear weapons frequently and cautions: "Deception is a characteristic of the sons of Israel."

CONFERENCE CALLS FOR SENSITIZING TOURISTS ABOUT PROPER CONDUCT

A 100-word unattributed report on page 1 says: "The Psychological Guidance Conference" held in the University of 'Ayn Shams recently called for organizing special courses for tour guides to train them in ways to "sensitize foreign tourists about how to abide by the proper Islamic code of conduct when they visit mosques and Islamic sites" to guarantee tourists' respect for Islamic sanctities.

AL-AZHAR CONSIDERING APPOINTING WOMAN TO FATWA COMMITTEE

An unattributed 80-word report on page 1 claims the al-Azhar rector is considering a proposal to appoint a woman to al-Azhar's fatwa committee to answer questions that women might be embarrassed to pose. Dr. Su'ad Salih, dean of the Islamic Studies College at al-Mansurah University, and Dr. Aminah Nasr, dean of the Islamic Studies College in Alexandria University, have been nominated for the position.

NORMALIZATION SEEN AS HUMILIATION

A 1,200-word article by Dr. Mahmud Mazru'ah on page 8 sets out to show that people are subjected to various events and that, after decades, they look back on these events with pride or shame.

To illustrate this, he discusses Palestine and its seizure by "the filthy" Jews, who built "an arsenal of destructive and scorching weapons" while Arabs were massing "resonant speeches and false promises."

The writer views the "current stage of humiliation and submission" to what he calls the aggressor, that is, "the so-called normalization stage." He says he is surprised at Egypt opening its arms to the Israelis when they "still occupy our land, desecrate our sanctities, and rid us of our dignity and pride."

He contends that Egypt's "great politicians" are preoccupied with providing security and reassurance and opening markets to that "dear friend Israel," forgetting the problems of their own people.

Mazru'ah suggests the real tragedy of the Muslims lies in what he sees as their discord, inaction, weakness, and capitulation, because they "drifted away from God's religion and his prophet's teachings."

AL-AZHAR OFFICIAL ON SECULARISM, HEADSCARF, CULTURE

Page 4 features a 2,000-word interview with Dr. Ahmad 'Umar Hashim, professor of prophetic sayings, deputy president of al-Azhar University, and chairman of the

Religious, Social, and Awqaf Affairs Committee at the People's Assembly, by 'Abd-al-Rasul al-Zurqani.

Al-Zurqani asks Dr. Hashim whether the committee is entitled to object to any bill that runs counter to Islamic shari'ah. He replies by saying that this is the role of the legislative committee and that any violation of shari'ah is usually referred to al-Azhar for a ruling. He explains that the committee deals with issues pertaining to pilgrims, the care of minors, and financial excesses at the al-Awqaf authority.

Asked about his position on secularists who attack Islam and claim that Egypt is a secular state, Dr. Hashim says: Egypt "has never been a secularist state, since the Constitution stipulates that shari'ah is the main source of legislation."

Asked about the Islamic headscarf and whether it is merely a social tradition, Dr. Hashim states: "The headscarf is an Islamic obligation," as explained by al-Azhar's fatwa committee.

On separating culture and art from religion, Dr. Hashim says culture should be linked with religion. Explaining that he is not against creativity and freedom of thought, he emphasizes that this does not mean undermining sanctities and religious principles. He notes: "We want thought that does not confuse Islam and terrorism."

Palestinian Affairs

Hamas Leader Reportedly Made 'Secret Visit' to U.S.

JN1901104795 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 19 Jan 95 p 11

[Report by Riyad Mansur]

[FBIS Translated Text] Will the United States be able to convince the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, to join the march of political settlement? This question is now being raised after the secret visit made by Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq, head of Hamas Political Bureau, to Washington.

Despite the veil of secrecy thrown over the visit, leaked information indicates that Dr. Abu-Marzuq met during this visit with senior advisers of U.S. President Bill Clinton.

Abu-Marzuq's visit to Washington came as the Hamas Movement is witnessing a heated and expanded debate regarding its transformation into a political party. Thus far, no final decision has been reached in this regard.

For its part, Hamas, through its official spokesman Engineer Ibrahim Ghawshah, neither denied nor confirmed the visit. Ghawshah said that Dr. Abu-Marzuq is a Palestinian leader who moves in more than one direction. He refused to specify where Abu-Marzuq is now, stressing that the moves of the head of the movement's political bureau should not be questioned or suspected. The remarks of Hamas' official spokesman clearly indicate that the movement is authorizing the head of its political bureau to open a dialogue with the United States. The question is: Was Dr. Abu-Marzuq armed with a decision from the movement's primary authority, the Shura Council, before he made this move?

This new move by the Hamas Movement, which was made through direct channels, is probably aimed at blocking the road before Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, who in the past was able to reach certain leading figures in Hamas in the West Bank and Gaza. 'Arafat was also able to attract a political figure in the movement, Sa'id Bilal, after Hamas rejected the four seats in the Palestinian Authority that 'Arafat offered to it through 'Abbas Zaki.

However, certain diplomatic sources feel that Abu-Marzuq's move in the direction of Washington was a reaction to the Palestinian president's meeting with leading figures of the Muslim Brotherhood movement in Egypt. Ibrahim Ghawshah says that available information suggests that no substantive issues were raised during that meeting, which lasted two hours. The Palestinian president only talked about his concern for Jerusalem and said that his efforts in that regard are being blocked by the donor states.

Ghawshah stressed that 'Arafat told the Egyptian brotherhood that he does not oppose the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Battalions if it carries out operations outside the self-rule areas, but he would oppose Hamas activity inside the area.

Regardless of the degree of the conflict between Hamas and the Palestinian Authority or between Hamas and Israel, Abu-Marzuq's secret visit to Washington constitutes a dramatic change in the conflict between the movement on the one hand and Israel and Washington on the other.

Hamas Activists Arrested; Jericho Men Said 'Tortured'

TA1901070595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 19 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian Police arrested four Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists in the Jabalyah refugee camp north of Gaza City. Palestinian sources told our correspondent that the four are suspected of possessing arms and organizing terrorist activities against Israel out of the Gaza Strip.

Jericho resident Rashid Da'ud was taken to a hospital in Jerusalem yesterday in serious condition after being tortured by the Palestinian security service. Another man from Jericho reportedly died during interrogation by the Palestinian security service. Our correspondent Dani Zaqen reports that the two men belong to a group of approximately 30 Jericho residents arrested by Jibril al-Rujub's security service in the course of investigations into the murder of a Hamas activist about a month ago.

'Arafat on Israeli Delaying Tactics, Arab Solidarity

LD1801145195 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] State President Liamine Zeroual received Palestinian State President Yasir 'Arafat at the presidential palace. The meeting was attended on the Algerian side by Foreign Minsiter Mohamed Salah Dembri, and Mihoub Mihoubi, presidential adviser and the state's official spokesman; and on the Palestinian side by Faysal al-Husayni, minister in charge of foreign affairs, and Abu al-'Izz, Palestinian ambassador accredited in Algeria.

[Begin 'Arafat recording] I am pleased at this good meeting, especially since I am visiting sisterly Algeria for the first time coming from the homeland. I have briefed his excellency the president on the results achieved in the meeting of the Jerusalem [Committee] which was held yesterday and the day before yesterday in Fes, and the importance of this meeting which confirms the Arab, Islamic, and Palestinian right in Jerusalem as the capital of the state of Palestine, the first of the two qiblahs [direction of prayer], and the third of the holy mosques, the place from which Prophet Muhammad, may God's prayers and peace be upon him, ascended [to heaven], and the birthplace of Jesus Christ, peace be upon him, which the Israelis are trying by different means [to build] more settlements inside and around the holy city in an attempt to change the demographic reality of the city. But the Palestinian, Arab, Islamic, and international stances reject such means carried out by Israel. This is a violation of the agreements concluded and signed by us and them in Washington and Cairo.

I also briefed his excellency the president on the conditions through which our people is going, and the challenges facing us in establishing our national authority on the first part of the Palestinian territory to be liberated [after] the Israelis withdraw from it. The Israelis are trying to delay the implementation of what has been agreed on, withdrawal from the rest of the territories, the establishment of our authority, and the immediate start of the elections process.

We have also discussed an important subject, that is the importance of joint Algerian-Palestinian action in collaboration with the rest of our brothers in the Arab countries [to achieve] Arab solidarity and Arab reconciliation as soon as possible, and strengthen this united Arab stance in the face of this new world order so that this new world order will not be at our expense, or at the expense of our coming generations. We desperately need to strengthen this Arab solidarity, and to close Arab ranks in the face of all these challenges which we are facing at more than one level. Either we will be or not be. [end recording] [passage omitted]

'Abbas Comments on Settlements, Jordanian Ties

MM1901103695 London AL-SHARQ AL-ASWAT in Arabic 18 Jan 95 p6

[Interview with Mahmud 'Abbas, member of the PLO Executive Committee, by unidentified correspondent in Tunis; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] What did you discuss with the Egyptian foreign minister during your recent visit to Cairo?

['Abbas] The most important subject discussed with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa was the question of the faltering Palestinian-Israeli negotiations whose faltering threatens perhaps a semi-complete halting of the peace process, particularly as the Israelis have begun to rediscuss the agreement on the redeployment of the Israeli Army and to try to divide it or even find compromises about it, while we feel that under no circumstances whatsoever could this issue be divided, particularly as it is indivisible.

Then there is the question of the elections, where we see no progress made. There is also the question of settlements which has now returned on a larger and more intensive scale, the reason for which we cannot understand, particularly as the Israeli Government was expected to halt any settlement operations. The U.S. Government is also expected to ask Israel to stop pursuing this policy, because the United States has pledged on more than one occasion that there would be no change in the features of the territories now under negotiation. Furthermore, when the United States granted funds and loans [to Israel] it stipulated that Israel should not build any settlements outside the Green Line.

In addition to the above, there is a problem in the multilateral negotiations pertaining to the nuclear and mass-destruction weapons, which Egypt feels that all the region's countries, including Israel, should abide by. Egypt considers any failure in this respect as a red light for the peace process.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin stated recently that he has not supported nor would he support any total withdrawal from the West Bank. He went further, saying that he denies the existence of any agreement on the partial withdrawal of the Israeli Army from the West Bank. What comment do you have in this regard?

['Abbas] The Oslo Accord is very clear. Paragraph one of Article 13 states that "Following the implementation of the Declaration of Principles, within a period not exceeding the eve of the council elections, the Israeli forces will be relocated in the West Bank and Gaza in addition to their withdrawal in accordance with Article 14 which pertains to withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho."

Paragraph three of the same article affirms that in relocating its military forces Israel would be guided by the principle of the redeployment of its armed forces outside the populated areas and will gradually carry out further relocations in specific areas compatible with the Palestinian police's assumption of responsibility for public order and internal security in accordance with Article 8 of the above [the Oslo Accord].

This means clearly and without any ambiguity or vagueness that upon agreement on the date of the elections, the Israeli armed forces would begin relocating their positions away from the populated areas in the West Bank, provided that this redeployment would be followed by further relocations pro rata with the Palestinian police's growing consolidation of their authority in the field of security.

This is what the aforementioned article states. It should not be toyed with, altered, amended, or replaced. Furthermore, it is not subject to any discussion or negotiation.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Was a map drawn during the Oslo negotiation for the redeployment of the Israeli armed forces in the West Bank?

['Abbas] No. No map was drawn for the redeployment in the Oslo Accord.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] It is being reported that during his forthcoming summit with 'Arafat, Rabin intends to put forward a new plan providing for withdrawal from the West Bank starting with Janin and Ramallah. What do you say to that?

['Abbas] If Rabin were to submit such a plan during his summit meeting with 'Arafat, then 'Arafat should reject it and adhere to what has been stated in the Oslo Accord.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Could your recent political moves be taken as an indication of your return to assume responsibility for negotiations?

[Abbas] No, this is not true. I do not want to resume leadership of the negotiations, because there is someone in the National Authority who is responsible for the negotiations and actually conducts them. I am only playing my role as a responsible official in the Palestinian arena and as a member of the Executive Committee of the PLO and the Central Committee of Fatah. I decide my own stand with regard to the negotiations.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] You have blamed the United States for the obstacles facing the peace process...

['Abbas] (Interrupting) With regard to the question of settlements, the United States shoulders a major responsibility. There was a sort of American semi-commitment that there would be no geographical or demographical changes in respect of the territory under negotiation. This means that by resuming its activities in the field of settlements, Israel has been violating the Oslo Accord, preempting the negotiations and endangering the peace process.

Hence in its capacity as the first sponsor of the peace process, the U.S. Administration should intervene to stop these violations and tell Israel that what it is doing is wrong. In the coming stage, we intend to ask the American and Russian sponsors to intervene to save the peace process from failure, particularly as the failure or faltering of the Palestinian process will affect all the other processes.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] How do you evaluate Jordanian-Palestinian relations in the light of your recent visit to Jordan?

['Abbas] There is a joint desire by the Jordanian and Palestinian sides to overcome any crisis that would impede or harm their relationship. For this reason, the coming days will witness the re-cementing of Jordanian-Palestinian relations, particularly as a Palestinian-Jordanian summit conference is expected to take place as neither side has any preconditions for the convocation of such a summit.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Are there are any specific arrangements for any meetings in the coming period of the Fatah Central Committee and the PLO Executive Committee?

['Abbas] Many Fatah Central Committee members are also members of the National Authority and there are members in the National Authority who are also members of the PLO Executive Committee. We leave it for these members to fix the dates for the meetings of the two committees in accordance with the particular conditions in the autonomous rule areas. For we do not wish to pressure the Authority by fixing dates for meetings. However, it is essential that such meetings take place so that the two committees would express their views and stands on what takes place during the negotiations and within the autonomous rule areas. This is because, theoretically and officially, the Central Committee and the Executive Committee constitute the point of reference for the Palestinian National Authority.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] The Likud Party has recently raised a clamor over what you stated in your memoirs "The Road to Oslo" about Palestinian support for the Labour Party in the past elections. What comment can you make about this?

['Abbas] The Likud Party has tried to raise a storm against the Labor Party claiming that what was written in your book was tantamount to Palestinian support for the Labor Party in the elections. But the fact is that the book [of memoirs] was published in both Arabic and Hebrew four months ago. At that time, it did not prompt any remarks from the Likud about the existence of a plot, as the Likud alleges.

But only two weeks ago, the results of a survey of public opinion inside Israel showed that the Likud Party would win the coming elections by 47 seats against 46 seats for the Labor Party in the Knesset. The Likud saw this as an opportunity to deal further blows to the Labor Party and invented this story in order to distort the image of the Labor Party.

But what has actually happened is that contacts are constantly made with all the parties and blocs in Israel with a view to reaching peace in the region. We do not direct the Arab blocs in the Knesset as to whom they should vote for. We, however, exchange views on which Party wants peace, be it the Labor Party or the Likud.

We do not side with the Likud against the Labor Party nor do we side with the Labor Party against the Likud, as evidenced by the fact that we started the peace process with the Likud in Madrid and then in Washington. We were prepared to continue the process with the Likud. It is none of our business whom the Israeli people choose, be it the Labor Party or the Likud.

Anyway what has happened falls within the framework of electioneering, but the premises are wrong: They should not hang their forthcoming elections on the Palestinian coathanger.

Fatah Rejects Identification With Authority

MM1901101095 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Jan 95 p2

[FBIS Translated Text] London, Tunis, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Fatah has emphasized that its relationship with the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] is an extension of its link with the PLO, maintaining that just as the PLO is the legitimate framework for all the Palestinian people including their factions, organizations, movements, and influential figures, the PNA is for all the Palestinians.

In its central bulletin issued in Tunis yesterday, Fatah denied the prevailing impression that the PNA is Fatah's authority and that Fatah is the PNA.

It said that the description of Fatah by many people as the ruling party does not distinguish between the concepts of party and movement and the concepts of ruling party and leading organization.

In its bulletin, issued by the Ideological Mobilization Department, Fatah urged the factions, forces, and influential figures allied with it in forming the PNA to shoulder their responsibilities along with Fatah by initiating direct dialogue with the forces and factions that are not part of the Authority to transform their reservation or rejection into participation and direct support for the PNA.

In its bulletin, which is issued twice a month and is distributed to all regions abroad, Fatah pointed out that the program and action plans of the PNA and its ministries were not identical with the program and action plans of any faction, including Fatah. That program, it added, constitutes the minimum on the basis of which these factions participate in the [implementation of] the agreement. That, it explained, gives each faction the chance to draw a distinction between the nature of its own organization and its participation in the PNA bodies, and the same applies to Fatah.

It stressed that it is permissible and even desirable that Fatah, in the course of its protection and sponsorship of the PNA, should exercise constructive criticism of the performance of the Authority's personnel at all levels.

Fatah emphasized that, based on its sponsorship of and depth of relations with the PNA, one of the movement's most important tasks in the current phase, is to preserve the PLO and its institutions and departments because it is the source of Palestinian legitimacy for the Palestinian Authority. It affirmed that any attempt to obstruct the PLO's institutions abroad on the pretext that the struggle is confined to the specific part from which the Israeli Army withdrew or intends to withdraw would be invalid.

Al-Rujub Explains Death of Interrogated Detainee

JN1801210895 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 18 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Sulayman Musa 'Ata Jalayitah died today while being interrogated in a preventive security center in Jericho. We have phoned Colonel Jibril al-Rujub, head of Preventive Security in Jericho.

[Begin recording] [Milhim] Col. Jibril, good evening.

[Al-Rujub] Good evening to you.

[Milhim] We heard today that a detainee died in one of the preventive security centers in Jericho. What happened?

[Al-Rujub] This person was arrested a few days ago as part of a group which committed several crimes against the Palestinian people. Of course, they all admitted the many operations they had carried out, including killings, sabotage operations against the National Authority [NA] after it assumed power on 13 June 1994, throwing stones and other objects at Israeli buses and cars, as well as at joint patrols on Route 90, not to mention distributing leaflets signed by the alliance of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine against the NA and its policy. They had also set fire to several houses in Jericho.

This person suffered from low blood pressure today. He was taken to a hospital where he died.

[Milhim] But this violates human rights, Mr. Jibril?

[Al-Rujub] I do not believe this is true. He was arrested in accordance with the law, and he was subjected to interrogation and all international rules and laws were respected. An investigation committee was formed to determine the cause of death. An autopsy will be carried out on the corpse, and an NA committee will investigate the issue. Hanan 'Ashrawi visited us and was briefed on all the facts and documents pertaining to the arrest and the interrogation.

[Milhim] Will you inform the citizens about the results of the investigation?

[Al-Rujub] Of course, the findings of the interrogation with the group of agents will be made public, as well as the results of the investigation which will determine the circumstances and causes of his death.

[Milhim] If the culpability of one of the interrogators is proven, will you punish him?

[Al-Rujub] If any interrogator is found to have resorted to violence in his interrogation, he will be held accountable. This is an issue of principle.

[Milhim] Col. Jibril al-Rujub, head of Preventive Security in Jericho, thank you. [end recording]

DFLP's Hawatimah 'Prepared To Return' to Self-Rule Areas

MM1801155495 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Jan 95 p2

[Report by 'Ali al-Salih: "Democratic Front's Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: We Are Not Talking About Individual Return to Gaza"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London—Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], said yesterday that he is prepared to return to the autonomy areas if he is permitted to do so outside the framework of the Oslo agreement, but he added that "confining the matter to individuals is not on our agenda." In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Hawatimah also said: "We are not at all talking about the return of one individual or several individuals but about the return of the cadres and leaderships of all the Palestinian factions, including those opposed to the Oslo agreement who have been denied the right of return by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in cooperation with (Palestinian President) 'Arafat's group. Everyone has that right, especially the DFLP."

An Israeli official source had stated yesterday that Hawatimah had applied for permission to move to the Gaza Strip, which is under the autonomy, rule despite his opposition to the peace agreement. The source confirmed the Israeli radio report yesterday that Hawatimah's request was conveyed by the head of the Middle East Department of the Russian Foreign Ministry to the Israeli Foreign Ministry through Israel's Ambassador to Moscow Elisa Shinhar last week. The ministry, which was surprised by the request, is now studying it with the Army and the Defense Ministry. Israeli Army radio expects the security authorities to reject the request because of Hawatimah's responsibility for some attacks on Israel.

Hawatimah explained that he did not make a personal application to Israel, adding that it was made in an official and public memorandum (to Russia, the United States, and the European Union states) over a period of several months, stressing the need to put pressure on Yitzhaq Rabin's government to allow the return of the leaders and cadres of the Palestinian factions and patriotic forces.

Hawatimah said that he did not coordinate with the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] at all on the matter. To justify that, he said that "the limited authonomy Authority is colluding with Rabin in preventing the leaders and members of the opposition from reaching the territory and the arena. Furthermore, that Authority has no power and authority to decide who returns and who does not."

He added: "In collusion with Rabin, that Authority opened the way to the Oslo agreement supporters to give our people the Oslo poison, and it erected high barriers against the cadres and leaders of the patriotic opposition forces."

Asked if he would return as an unarmed political party if permitted to return, the DFLP secretary general said: "We have declared and we will continue to declare that our program, with its popular, political, and armed aspects, will continue against the occupation forces and the flocks of settlers and against the confiscation of land. We will, at the same time, continue to struggle for democratic freedom and to emphasize our people's right to continue the struggle, in all its aspects, to end the occupation, dismantle the settlements, abrogate the Oslo agreement, and replace it with a just and comprehensive peace."

Hawatimah reaffirmed his support for free impartial political legislative elections in the autonomy areas under neutral international supervision (Russia and the United States) but he emphatically rejected participation in limited autonomy elections. He said: "Legislative elections are one thing and autonomy elections with the Oslo framework are quite another."

Hawatimah said that the links with the Palestinian Authority have been severed since the Oslo agreement. He added: Before that, we repeatedly tried to coordinate with 'Arafat's group but the road was blocked and 'Arafat insisted on dealing with matters in closed rooms, keeping them secret even from members of the negotiating team."

In conclusion, he said: "That is why the DFLP, the Popular [Front for the Liberation of Palestine], the People's Party, and other organizations, factions, and patriotic figures will continue to say no to the Oslo agreement and will fight for a just peace."

Meanwhile, Zayd Wahbi, former Fatah official in Lebanon, has denied reports of his imminent return to the autonomy areas despite the fact that he has obtained Israel's permission to return. Wahbi, who has been in London for a long time for medical treatment, said in a telephone statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: "My return depends on the return of all the Palestinians in Lebanon to our homeland." He added: "I am in London for treatment and I am waiting to return to Lebanon."

Islamic Jihad Leader on Armed Operations, Iran's Role

TA1801184395 Gaza AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH in Arabic 16 Jan 95 P 3 (Tentative)

[Interview with Shaykh Nafidh 'Azzam, an Islamic Jihad leader in the Gaza Strip, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH] Recently it has been observed that Islamic Jihad has stopped armed operations against Israel. We are no longer hearing about operations even in the occupied West Bank. Is the Islamic Jihad pursuing a new approach?

['Azzam] I might not be involved in the military aspect, but I can talk about a general strategy that has governed the march of Islamic Jihad since the outset. The Jihad Movement was founded to realize the goals of Islam. One of those goals is the problem of Palestine and jihad for the sake of its liberation until the last inch. This is a firm strategy which cannot be changed regardless of the conditions.

Some unexpected developments might occur or there could be some other priorities, but jihad on the path of God and against the Zionist entity is something firm which does not change under any circumstances.

[AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH] Can we understand from this that Islamic Jihad stopped its operations in the Gaza Strip as a result of unexpected developments, such as the agreement signed between the Authority and Israel, and the desire to avoid a clash with the National Authority?

['Azzam] The fact is that we do not want to clash with the Authority, but we have a greater obligation dictated on us by our commitment to the goals of Islam. What is happening on the ground is that settlement activity as well as the policy of land seizure are continuing, and the killing has not stopped. Ten martyrs fell in the last week alone. Therefore, we believe that only by maintaining a state of jihad and resistance can this injustice be terminated. We act within the framework of principles dictated on us by Islam alone.

[AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH] It is said that your decisions come from Iran and that you are an Iranian, not a Palestinian movement.

['Azzam] The fact is that since the outbreak of the Islamic revolution in Iran, we adopted a stance toward it that was dictated to us by Islam. At the same time, we felt that this revolution belonged to all the deprived and oppressed people in the world, but our decision has never been Iranian. A rule has governed our policy all along, which is that our closeness to any regime depends on the extent of that regime's closeness to Islam and Palestine. We are an Islamic mujahid movement. We have our own principles and goals which we try to realize. We perceive the Islamic revolution in Iran as a factor that aids and supports our efforts and the efforts of all Muslims.

[AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH] Do you receive any funds from Iran?

['Azzam] Even if we were receiving funds from Iran, that would not affect our decision.

[AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH] Does the presence of Islamic Jihad Movement Secretary General Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi in Iran underscore your remarks about its support for your movement?

['Azzam] The Islamic Republic of Iran is an important regional power which cooperates with all Islamic movements. It is natural for Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi to visit there, as do many other Islamic leaders.

[AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH] How are decisions made in the Islamic Jihad Movement?

['Azzam] The fact is that the basis in our movement is consultation. I do not wish to talk about frameworks and cadres. This is not a suitable time, but those responsible for the Jihad Movement constitute a permanently cohesive and harmonious group. The supreme Islamic interest is behind any decision by the movement.

[AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH] Is this group inside Palestine?

['Azzam] Not necessarily. A large number of the group is outside Palestine.

[AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH] Is the Islamic Jihad Movement thinking of forming a political party? This issue is being discussed in other Islamic movements in light of the expected elections.

['Azzam] This issue is on our agenda, but I do not believe that the question of elections will pressure us into forming a party or a political framework. Our stance on the elections is clear and decisive and it will not be subject to any bargaining at all as long as those elections are conducted against the background of the Oslo accord.

[AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH] Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] says that it represents all the opposition factions in its talks with the Authority. If a certain agreement is reached in these talks, will you abide by it?

['Azzam] We are trying to create a broad-based front that expresses the positions of all the opposition factions. As of this moment, however, no agreement has been reached over this front inside Palestine, and the opposition factions have no mechanism for action or coordination. Consequently, the efforts of the Hamas brothers express their positions and convictions alone, not those of all the opposition factions.

Jericho Radio Pins Hopes on 'Arafat-Rabin Meeting

JN1901090295 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0625 GMT 19 Jan 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Words indistinct] Hope is being pinned on today's summit between President Yasir 'Arafat and Yitzhaq Rabin even though the files of this summit are smoldering, about to set aflame all the hopes that have emerged since the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles [DOP].

The files of settler activity, prisoners, Israeli Army withdrawal from the Palestinian cities, and the date of Palestinian elections will all be placed on the table of the Palestinian-Israeli summit today. On the occasion of the summit, we recall that the Palestinian decision for peace was a strategic Palestinian choice. Therefore, confronting the widespread settlement activity in our Palestinian homeland is aimed at serving and saving the peace process. Releasing the Palestinian prisoners will help spread an atmosphere of peace on this land. Withdrawing the Israeli Army from the Palestinian cities and the rest of our occupied territory will bolster and entrench peace.

Every step taken by the PLO and the Palestinian National Authority since the signing of the DOP between the Israelis and Palestinians was meant to advance the peace process. The Palestinians said: Take us with you, O peace. The Palestinian peace march began from here, the land of this Palestinian homeland, with a process of construction in all domains of life. The entire world witnessed the Palestinian steps toward peace and awarded our President Yasir 'Arafat the Nobel Peace Prize. By opting for peace, the Palestinians cannot but look for peace now and in the future—a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace that is nurtured by an independent Palestinian state, whose capital is Jerusalem.

Our Palestinian people will not keep roaming the world nor remain refugees on their own land. We must establish the state of all Palestinians on the highest levels of construction, creativity, and democracy. These are the foundations of peace and peace is the antithesis of settler activity and occupation. We will not say farewell to peace. We will again and always say: Take us with you, O peace. We are still in the long tunnel. Take us to new vistas of freedom and we will dig the road to peace until the end even if we have to confront the settlement activity every minute. We view the Palestinian-Israeli summit today with hope so that Israel may realize that peace is the option of the brave and the option of life.

Rabin Government's Settlement Policy Termed 'Satanic Game'

TA1801164695 Gaza AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH in Arabic 16 Jan 95 pp 1, 15 (Tentative)

[Editorial: "Settlement Activity Is the Opposite of Peace"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israelis, in all their political tendencies, are promoting the policy of intensive settlement in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. This policy is being pursued provocatively and systematically in such a way that the settlers' measures are in harmony with those of the Israeli Government. Despite official Israeli claims, which are trying to make us believe that settlement activity has stopped after the al-Khidr events, the settlement drive which we are observing daily with our own eyes refutes these claims and does not leave us room to believe what the Israelis are propagating. Israel's rulers are disregarding the fact that if settlement activity, which was an obstacle to peace, were to continue, it will become the thunderbolt that will blow up the entire peace process—whether with us, the Palestinians, or with the Arab brothers. Our people, who were burned by this policy over the past decades, have been called upon to confront this cancer, which is spreading day by day. Perhaps the ever-growing peaceful activities that are being organized by our people everywhere against settlement activity will not be the only response as long as the occupation authorities and their spoiled sons, the settlers, continue—in addition to stealing the land— the policy of assaulting the owners of the land and punishing the victims instead of the attackers.

It seems that up to now Rabin's government has been unaware of the seriousness of this satanic game and, through settlement activity, is trying to implement its political ideas, which seek to disconnect the occupied territories and turn the Palestinian geographic unit into isolated pockets so that the establishment of an integral Palestinian state will become impossible. Should this game continue, that will necessarily mean declaring war on the peace process and turning back the hands of the clock. Our people might be the least keen on turning back, but we are certain that they will be forced to do so as long as the road forward is closed by settlement activity and the future seems worse than the past. They will not be losing anything since they are not gaining anything now.

Algeria

Zeroual Receives 'Arafat, Discusses Peace Process

JN1801205395 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 18 jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Algerian President Liamine Zeroual received His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat at noon today. President 'Arafat arrived in the Algerian capital from Morocco this morning after heading the Palestinian delegation to the Jerusalem committee meetings.

The two sides discussed the latest developments of the peace process and the Israeli measures to judaize Jerusalem through the settlement activities it is carrying out. President 'Arafat briefed President Zeroual on the difficulties the National Authority faces as a result of such Israel's violations of the peace agreement as obstructing the redeployment in preparation for holding the Palestinian elections.

GIA Expected To Deny Authenticity of Paris Statement

MM1801172795 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 18 Jan 95 p 4

[Report by Kamil al-Tawil: "Algeria: Islamic Group Expected To Issue Rebuttal of 'Paris Statement'"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London—Reliable Algerian sources said yesterday that the statement distributed in France two days ago in the name of the the Armed Islamic Group [GIA] is most likely to prove unauthentic; and that the group will issue a statement reiterating its position, which rejects any solution through dialogue with the present Algerian regime, which it describes as "apostate." The Paris statement said that the GIA would accept the outcome of the Algerian parties' meetings held in Rome under the sponsorship of the Sant'Egidio society. And it issued a "national contract" containing its view of how to resolve the crisis through dialogue. [passage omitted]

It is not known why the group has taken so long to reject the first statement, which if was true would have isolated the Algerian regime on the political scene and portrayed it as the only party rejecting the majority's endeavors to resolve the crisis.

The group has on several occasions reiterated that it will not accept a solution involving the "apostate regime." And it claimed responsibility for murder operations and actions which have embarrassed the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] leadership. However, leading FIS figures stress that Shaykhs Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj may—if they are released by the Algerian authorities—convince the group to accept a peaceful solution to the crisis. [passage omitted]

At another level, AL-HAYAH has learned that the day before yesterday armed Islamic groups assassinated a prominent official of the general secretariat of Algerian pilots in Lakhdaria. And new information has been received about the escape of more than a hundred members of the intervention units [al-tadakhkhul] from a barracks near Guemar, close to the border with Tunisia. The information revealed that the security forces lost scores of personnel in an ambush set for them in the area. The Algerian Air Force bombarded the area fiercely after it received information about the existence of groups of armed Islamists. Then military forces were sent in to comb the area, but they were ambushed in the mountains surrounding Guemar. As a result, they lost a large number of personnel. The gunmen's losses are unknown. However, it has been reported that the security forces are pursuing them.

Security Services Kill 7 'Terrorists,' Recover Arms

LD1801222995 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 18 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A statement by the security services stated today that the security forces have eliminated seven terrorists in the provinces of the capital Algiers, Tizi Ouzou, Tipasa, and Mascara. The security services statement added that during this operation a quantity of weapons was recovered.

Economic News: Development, Loans, Cooperation

Southern Areas Initiative

LD1201231195 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 12 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The meeting of the council of government was crowned with a number of measures to stimulate development activities in the regions of the great south. In a statement made to Algerian Radio, [Algerian Prime Minister] Mokdad Sifi talked about the nature of these measures to our correspondent Beriza Berzak:

[Begin Sifi recording] Some of the measures concern the civil servants in the south, particularly an increase in the salary that would encourage qualified employees to come to work in the south more easily. Other measures would provide them with furnished work accommodation. [passage omitted]

There are measures to reduce bank interest rate by 50 percent for each investor in all fields. Other measures exempt each new producer and investor from all kinds of taxes for 10 years. This would also apply on the existing producers when they decide to restructure their production or manufacture. [end recording]

Southern Projects Funding

LD1401184595 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ninety billion Algerian dinars have been allocated for the development of the four provinces of the Great South, Adrar, Tamanrasset, Illizi, and Tindouf. A part of this amount is to be directed to development projects, planned in the short- and medium-term to guarantee non-priority needs. Basic needs, such as ending the isolation of the southern provinces and providing food, water, and electric supplies, are to be undertaken by the government.

According to the cabinet meeting in Adrar, projects drawn for the Great South are proof of the importance and the results expected to be achieved in the region, which is considered to have all the factors for economic and agricultural development and growth.

The special care given to the region is also reflected by the incentives given recently, particularly the reduction or abolition of some taxes to encourage investment. This further bolsters the region's chances to play a role in extending cooperation with countries neighboring Algeria in various sectors, such as tourism, due to the considerable local resources it has.

African Development Bank Loan

LD1401134495 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The African Development Bank [ADB] has granted Algeria a loan amounting to $83.75 million to be allocated to the financing of an electricity project. A statement issued in Abidjan by the ADB yesterday said that the loan, which is to be repaid over a 20-year period with a five-year grace period, is to meet demand in electric energy and improve the quality of electric supplies.

World Bank Loan Granted

LD1401143995 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The World Bank agreed yesterday to grant Algeria a loan to the value of $150 million to be allocated to bolstering emergency economy reforms and meeting the citizens' basic needs. The loan is to be repaid over a period of 17 years with a five-year grace period. It would help speed the transition of the Algerian economy to a market economy through the development of the private sector, the reform of state-owned companies, the restructuring of the financial sector, and the bolstering of social security services.

Pharmaceutical Joint Venture

LD1501233495 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 15 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An Algerian foreign joint company, which specializes in manufacturing pharmaceutical products, has been set up. The company has an initial capital of 16 million francs. Siham El-Barki reports:

[El-Barki] Four Algerian public pharmaceutical establishments: Enapharm [National Enterprise of Pharmaceutical Products], Encopharm, Enopham, and Saidal [National Enterprise of Pharmaceuticals] and eight foreign laboratories have set up a joint company for manufacturing pharmaceutical products, which they have named (Sorephar). According to foreign sources, the capital of the new company is estimated at 16 million francs. The capital will rise to 66 million francs when work on the project commences. The cost of the project has been estimated at 300 million francs, and it will employ 300 people on temporary basis. Algeria's share of the company's total capital is 40 percent, while the foreign share is 60 percent, including 35 percent to the French (Entolang).

Egypt

Mubarak Winds Up France Visit, Returns Home

NC1801212395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2100 GMT 18 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 18 Jan (MENA)—With God's care, President Husni Mubarak and the accompanying delegation returned to the homeland this evening following a swift visit to France, where he met with French President Francois Mitterrand.

During the visit, Presidents Mubarak and Mitterrand discussed the latest developments in the Middle East peace process as well as international and regional issues of mutual interest.

Israel Denies Reports on 'Document on Punishing Egypt'

JN1801212895 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 16 Jan 95 pp 1, 22

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-ITTIHAD has learned from a ranking source at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry that Cairo received an urgent message from Israel yesterday [January 15]. The message denied allegations about an Israeli document on punishing Egypt.

This informed diplomatic source told AL-ITTIHAD that the message sent by Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres emphasized several issues, including the following:

—What HA'ARETZ published does not, in any way, reflect the Israeli policy or the position of the Israeli foreign minister.

—The Israeli foreign minister believes that Egypt is the pioneering state in the peace process and is the basic pillar in reconciliation between Arabs and Israel.

—Israel views the Egyptian role as vital and a cornerstone in realizing peace in the region.

—Relations between Egypt and Israel are based on constructive and positive dialogue and not on divergence as HA'ARETZ tried to emphasize.

The source said the reports Cairo received emphasized that the document is no more than a paper leaked by an Israeli Foreign Ministry's employee. The document is not real and does not reflect an official Israeli position nor represent its policy which adheres to peace.

Musa Discusses 'Misunderstanding' With Israel

NC1901124395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1120 GMT 19 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Paris, 19 Jan (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has said that one of the reasons for the misunderstanding between Egypt and Israel is the presence of extremist and shallow forces in Israel. He explained: These forces worked to create problems, which I believe deserve no attention, not only because they are unacceptable, but because they backfire. I have enough assertions to reassure me that those things were a mistake, for which there was an apology. We are very alert to such things.

Musa told Arab Radio Orient in Paris: We are watching Israeli developments, ideas, and inclinations as explained in their published document [referred to as "The Plan To Punish Egypt"]. I believe this issue was dealt with in the right way.

He said that what happened shows that things cannot pass so easily. "These things will not pass without the appropriate response and action," he said.

On policy after the Alexandria Summit, Musa said: We must try to contain any Arab conflict that may erupt. The Arab region must get rid of all conflicts as soon as possible. He stressed the need for cooperation, understanding, and coordination among the Arab countries to confront the serious developments that arise.

On a question about Iraq, the foreign minister said that the general Arab situation has not changed, but Iraq's latest step of recognizing Kuwait must leave its impact.

On the meetings of the Damascus Declaration states in Cairo soon, Musa said this is part of the Arab work: Activating the Damascus Declaration, the Arab Maghreb Union, the Gulf Cooperation Council, and the Arab League; trying to contain bilateral conflicts; holding Arab meetings on the highest level and between groupings of countries to discuss the Arab situation; and then starting and continuing consultations.

He said Israel's settlement policy, the stalemate on the Palestinian and Syrian tracks of the negotiations, and the resulting fragility of the peace process sound the alarm bell of fear and anxiety for everybody.

Musa stressed that peace in the region must be balanced. He said peace on Israeli terms is impossible. He said: Peace is impossible with Israel continuing its settlement policy, annexing Jerusalem, refusing to deal with the regional worry about its nuclear program, and refusing to join any international agreements in this regard. All these things raise questions and create doubts about Israel's intentions.

The foreign minister expressed his belief that the steps Israel took before the settlements problem emerged were fine. But recent Israeli practices, he said, raised doubts, which threaten the peace process.

On Jerusalem Committee and Morocco meetings, Musa said the most important thing was the committee's reassertion not to recognize any measures taken by Israel. He said the annexation of Jerusalem is illegal and illegitimate. We will continue to call on all nations to consider this, he said.

He said peace also requires that Israel respect its principles and refrain from expanding Jerusalem, building settlements, expelling Palestinians, or preventing Palestinian activity.

Perry Statements Said To 'Serve Israel's Stubbornness'

NC1901113095 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 11 Jan 95 p 2

[From the "Comment" column by Ahmad Hasan: "Deception and Stubbornness"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It is not strange for Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to call on Israel to prepare itself for an all-out war in the near future: To hell with every call for peace and every illusion of stability. And it is not strange for the Israeli foreign minister to disregard every effort to remove nuclear weapons from the Middle East and to reject, in all arrogance, subjecting Israel's nuclear facilities to international inspection.

And it does not matter whether these statements are real, emotional, or a firm expression of an Israeli strategy seeking to destroy the region's present and future. What matters is that these provocative statements were made at the end of U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry's visit to Israel. During the visit Perry declared several positions that, to say the least, serve Israel's policy of stubbornness, deception, and arrogance.

As much as Perry's visit showed that Israel and the United States have identical views, his statements were full of contradictions.

First, Perry repeated the same provocative statement that the United States is committed to maintaining Israel's qualitative superiority over its neighbors "to enable it to continue the peace process."

This shows a clear contradiction. How can a negotiated process be conducted between unequal sides? Can we guarantee that a just and lasting peace can be achieved under the threat of Israel's nuclear arsenal?

The second contradictory remark came in Perry's answer to a question on Israel's signing of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. Perry said verbatim that Israel needs more time to accept the treaty and sign it. This means that Israel, the spoilt ally, which, according to several international reports, possesses over 200 nuclear warheads, is not currently required to sign the treaty, while other countries in the region that neither possess nor seek to obtain nuclear weapons are asked to sign it!

Even stranger is Perry's justification of this position. He said Israel has not yet reached a peace agreement with Syria! Does Perry mean that Israel will be unable to wrest a peace agreement with Syria unless the Israeli negotiator takes his nuclear arsenal with him to the negotiating table?

The statements by Perry, Rabin, and Peres will not affect the steadfastness of the rightful owners, who are working to restore their usurped rights without relinquishing any of them, no matter how long it takes.

Al-Baz Denies 'Interference' in Israeli Elections

MM1901101295 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Jan 95 p4

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Usamah al-Baz, director of the Egyptian president's office for political affairs, commenting on the possibility of setting a date for his next visit to Israel, said: "If it becomes necessary," especially if it is to do with the Syrian or Lebanese tracts or with interceding to enhance implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement.

Al-Baz denied any tension in Egyptian-Israeli relations. He referred to differences of opinion, particularly in connection with the question of Israel signing the treaty on nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, al-Baz denied reports of Egyptian interference in Israeli elections and coordination with the Israeli Arab Party. He said that Egypt has not interfered in the internal affairs of any state. That, he said, is a constant principle we will never abandon and we request that it should be upheld in all states.

He reaffirmed that that issue did not warrant the press uproar because it is nonexistent anyway. He said: I personally did not in any way interfere as some papers claimed. The Egyptian role has not gone beyond the important matter of influencing the Israeli people in the interest of a comprehensive peace in the region. Everyone knows our role in this connection.

He said that Egypt does not address press statements but deals through the known diplomatic channels of contact between states. It is easy to use provocative language, he added, but we are anxious to use the method of constructive dialogue in the interest of all parties, and it is unacceptable that any party should try to impose its policies on us.

On rumors of a U.S. role in preventing an enlarged Arab summit conference, he said: Arab decisions are independent decisions. We can achieve all we want. Had it not been for Iraq's invasion of Kuwait we would not have seen the current setbacks. We believe in the importance of reconciliation on solid long-lasting foundations. He concluded: If I were American, I would prefer to deal with the Arabs individually. [passage omitted]

Writer 'Adil Husayn Released From Jail

NC1801192395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1830 GMT 18 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 18 Jan (MENA)—Prosecutor General Counselor Raja' al-'Arabi has decided to release journalist 'Adil Husayn. Counselor Hisham Saraya, attorney general of the state security prosecution, contacted Ibrahim Nafi', head of the journalists' association, and told him that the prosecution had decided to release 'Adil Husayn. Saraya said that the Prison Commission has been notified of the decision.

The head of the journalists association visited 'Adil Husayn at the prison and accompanied him to his house this evening.

Brotherhood Spokesman Denies 'Terrorism' Claim

NC1801181295 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 11 Jan 95 p 7

[Interview with Muslim Brotherhood official spokesman Ma'mun al-Hudaybi by Tal'at al-Maghrabi; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Maghrabi] During the recent meeting of the Arab interior ministers in Tunisia, Interior Minister Major General Hasan al-Alfi lashed out at the Muslim Brotherhood group. The minister accused the group of inciting terrorism and of establishing ties with the international organization. This represents a prelude for a heated confrontation between the state and the group. It also represents a new link in their relations. How true are these accusations?

[Al-Hudaybi] There is absolutely no relationship between the group and terrorism. It is regrettable that such accusations are made by a responsible person like the interior minister. This a serious charge. May I ask how he could accuse the group when over the past 25 years many cases were referred to the judiciary, which issued verdicts according to which people were sent to prison, others detained, and many executed and that none of those was a member of Muslim Brotherhood?

[Al-Maghrabi] Has the group been disbanded or is it still operating as a political organization?

[Al-Hudaybi] We have not been disbanded. We have our legal rights to operate in the arena as a political organization and to entertain our political rights.

[Al-Maghrabi] Why does the state always insist on accusing you of inciting terrorism despite your repeated categorical denial?

[Al-Hudaybi] The regime is not prepared to remain democratic. Consequently, it rejects the presence of strong and influential opposition. The regime does not recognize the possibility of a peaceful change. That is why the regime is always accusing us of inciting terrorism. It always says that we want to seize rule.

[Al-Maghrabi] Is there any relationship between the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt and the international organization, which is headquartered in Germany, particularly in terrorism?

[Al-Hudaybi] How could they accuse the worldwide organization of inciting terrorism. The Muslim Brotherhood represents the pillars of the Reform Grouping Party in Yemen. How could these be accused of inciting terrorism?

The Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan participates in the parliament and the cabinet. The Jordanian Government seeks to include them in the new government led by Zayd Bin-Shakir. Can we call them terrorists?

In Malaysia, the Pan-Malaysian Party adopts the group's tenets and program.

Terrorism occurs only when the government uses violence against the people and rigs elections.

'Abd-al-Rahman 'Ties to U.S. Authorities' Exposed

NC1801193795 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 14 Jan 95 p 18

[First installment of article by Sa'd-al-Din Wahbah entitled: "America and the Islamic Groups"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman and 14 of his followers are now on trial in the United States on charges of conspiracy to blow up a number of vital installations in New York City and the attempted assassination of important figures. 'Abd-al-Rahman's ties to the U.S. authorities have been exposed. These authorities used him to recruit Egyptian youngsters to fight in Afghanistan. They also used him in several other operations that remain ambiguous. It was the United States that granted him an entry visa through its consulate in Khartoum. It seems that a conflict in views among some security agencies within the U.S. Administration has led 'Abd-al-Rahman to jail and later to court. It also seems, judging by several contradictory stances regarding 'Abd-al-Rahman, that some U.S. security agencies still care about him. Perhaps some strange things may take place during or after the trial or during or after the verdict, if one can be handed down against 'Abd-al-Rahman amidst such ambiguity that shrouds everything related to this case, in which he is standing trial as one of the defendants.

Undoubtedly the trial and the details of the case will reach the press, and once again "Islam" will be a target for malicious writers led by Israel and its agents in the United States. In the eyes of some zealot American Zionists, Islam is not a sacred creed adopted by millions of people throughout the world but a target toward which all their accusations for actions that are in reality the work of individuals and not of a whole creed can be directed. And why should Islam, and not any other creed, be singled out for blame in this regard? Reason and logic say that a person, any person, is responsible for his own action and that he should be judged within these limits and according to the law. But for an individual to be accountable for the acts of his homeland, sect, creed, or even family is sheer injustice with a clear-cut purpose.

Islam has been the subject of aggressive campaigns that lacked courtesy on many occasions, particularly following the bombing of the World Trade Center, in which several Muslims of various nationalities were charged. This also occurred when some Muslim Arabs were arrested on charges of planning a series of attacks and bombings in New York City, chief among them was 'Umar 'Abd-al- Rahman. Suffice it here to mention only one example of the comments made following the aforesaid incident. An editorial in the NEW REPUBLIC, a conservative democratic magazine, noted that there is an Islamic culture in Brooklyn, New Jersey, and Detroit that feeds and fosters criminals in a country that is not their own and to which they do not feel any loyalty or belief in any value. The editorial adds: It remains for us to say firmly and clearly that our culture does not agree with that of the Islamists. Therefore, laws on immigration to our country must be reconsidered. The case of blowing up or planning to blow up some installations, in which some Muslim Arabs are accused, thus becomes one in which the responsibility falls on the Islamic culture and that even requires a reconsideration of the immigration laws to deport these people or not to allow them to enter the United States. [passage omitted]

Islam, then, is in the eyes of some people the current and sole enemy of Western democracy. In the eyes of others, it is held responsible for any act committed by an ordinary individual whose religion is Islam or an official in any Islamic country. To some Americans, Islam bears responsibility for the U.S. hostages held by Khomeyni at the beginning of his rule, for blowing up the U.S. plane over Lockerbie in Scotland, and for Khomeyni's fatwa [legal religious ruling] to execute Salman Rushdie. [passage omitted]

The facts are clear now. America is the one that helped the Muslim Brotherhood grow to face pan-Arabism. America is the one that financed the Muslim youth in Afghanistan with 6 billion dollars to fight the Soviet Union. America is the one that invented the policy of resettling the youngsters returning from Afghanistan in their own homeland to escape them. America is the one that backed 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman and made something out of him; it is the one that has arrested him and is now fighting him. Israel is the one that backed Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] to strike at the PLO and Fatah.

This is the U.S. policy toward the Islamic groups. But America has other views, which we will talk about next week.

Writer Urges Arabs To 'Join Ranks With Iran'

NC1901112295 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 11 Jan 95 p 16

[From the "Idea" column by Mustafa Amin]

[FBIS Translated Text] Rabin's remark that Israel must be prepared for war is no mere noise, but a real threat that we must take seriously. It reveals real intentions that cannot be explained away by a denial.

Israel has long tried to conceal its intentions. Previously, threats were made by unofficial circles. Recent remarks by its prime minister and defense minister have exposed the truth.

The Arabs must act in accordance with these grave remarks. We must call the Arab and Islamic countries to an immediate conference to confront this new development. We must also be ready for a surprise act of aggression against an Arab or an Islamic country. Henceforth we must be wary of any attempt to divide us or to sow discord between one Arab or Islamic country and another. We must regard any aggression against any Arab or Islamic country as aggression against us all.

At the same time we must settle the disagreements between us and Iran, Iraq, and Sudan. There is no room for frivolity or for continuing minor differences at a dangerous time, when the Islamic and Arab nations must adopt a united position, pursue a united policy, and stand together ready to confront any attack on any of our countries.

This means we should join ranks with Iran. And we should have reservations about the claim that Iran possesses nuclear weapons and is ready to pounce on us.

Iran's standing by our side will strengthen Iran and make it able to resist any attempt to harm us.

We welcome the position proclaimed by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa that Egypt has a strong wish to join ranks with Sudan and end any disagreements between the two countries.

On important issues we can forget our differences, rise above our petty infighting, and stand fast as one man.

In our great battles we are one man and one country.

Police To Use Helicopters Against Militants

NC1801134695 Paris AFP in English 1226 GMT 18 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Jan 18 (AFP)—The Egyptian interior ministry plans to set up a flying police force to track down militants hiding in sugar cane plantations, AL-MUSSAWAR magazine reported here Wednesday [18 January], as gunmen killed another policeman in southern Egypt.

Suspected Islamic militants shot and killed Sergeant Rabih 'Abd- al-Halim al-Sammak, 48, as he returned home from work in the troubled town of Mallawi, 300 kilometres (180 miles) south of Cairo, police said.

The gunmen fled into nearby sugar cane fields after shooting al- Sammak in the head and chest.

His death raised to 214 the number of policemen killed in unrest since militants launched a violent anti-government campaign in March 1992. The overall number of victims stands at 593, according to police.

Police will use army helicopters in their battle against the militants, who have turned the dense sugar cane plantations into virtual fortresses, AL-MUSSAWAR magazine said.

Earlier police planned to order an early harvest of the sugar cane, but the proposal was opposed by the inhabitants of Upper Egypt, a poor region heavily dependent on the crop.

The flying unit will also enable police to track down militants in areas which are difficult to reach on foot or by car, such as mountains which border on the plantations, the magazine said.

And the helicopters would be used against drug traffickers, who have transformed vast areas of Upper Egypt into opium fields, the magazine added.

Libya

Committee Criticizes U.S. Speaker's Statement

LD1601215695 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The General People's Committee For Unity has issued a statement on the statement by the speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives supporting moving the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem. Here is the text of the statement:

The media organs have reported statements made by the speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives in which he said that he backs and supports moving the U.S. Embassy at the Israeli enemy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem and that the Israelis have a complete right to choose their capital, and that America—the major ally of the Israelis—has to support and back this choice. [passage omitted]

The General People's Committee for Unity, while recalling this resolution, places in front of the Jerusalem Committee, which meets in Morocco, the following facts:

One: The statements of the speaker of the House of Representatives gives the Israelis support and encouragement to solidify their occupation of the Arab territories, including Jerusalem, and to change its character and position in contravention of the UN Security Counsel and the UN General Assembly resolutions.

Two: The call of the speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives for supporting the illegal measures taken by the Israelis which had changed or intended to change the character or the position of the city of Jerusalem and its Arab-Islamic identity is not a neutral stand by the United States, which claims to be a neutral sponsor of the so-called peace process. Indeed, it expresses a total support for occupation and support for the legislative and administrative measures and actions taken on Jerusalem and their insistence to declare it a capital of their state.

Three: This stand, which supports Israeli occupation and Israeli measures in connection with the city of Jerusalem, contradicts the will of the international community—a matter that renders the U.S. Government in breach of the international resolutions and the UN Charter and its disregard for the will of the international community.

Four: The Arab nation finds itself in the face of the U.S. disregard for the will of the international community and the resolutions of the ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] and the Jerusalem Committee, not bound by the resolutions of the UN General Assembly and UN Security Council, especially when America, who calls on nations to abide by the UN resolutions, is one of the first states which does not commit themselves to those resolutions. Indeed, it encourages the Israelis not to be bound by them. How can this contradictory stand be in harmony with making the Arab States be bound by the UN Security Council resolutions, while these resolutions are not binding on the Israelis?

Five: The American stand has given a justification to all the Arab States not to be bound by the UN Security Council and UN General Assembly resolutions as long the yardstick for implementing them is the self-interest of this or that state; and by adopting a two-tier standard on the part of America in implementing the international documents and resolutions, the Arab States find themselves in the face of the will of their peoples not bound by the resolutions passed against some Arab countries, particularly the Great Jamahiriyah, as long as the international community is not able to have the United States and the Israeli enemy committed to implementation of Security Council resolutions concerning Israeli usurpation of Palestine and the Arab territories.

The General People's Committee for Unity, while stating these facts, warns of the danger inherent in the call of the speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, especially as he is the speaker of a legislative institution that is supposed to uphold international documents, and not to incite or call for breaching and violating them by the Israelis who usurped Arab territories.

While it denounces and condemns this call, it requests the Arab League, the ICO, and the Jerusalem Committee to take a firm stand, and it calls on them to hold meetings immediately in order to take the necessary resolutions on this dangerous call and its implications.

[Signed] The General People's Committee for Unity

Arab League Meeting on 'Israeli Aggression' Requested

LD1701204695 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 17 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Secretariat of the General People's Committee for Unity has sent an urgent request to the Arab League asking it to hold an emergency session of the Arab League Council to debate the Israeli aggression against south Lebanon and the statements of the speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives on moving the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

Al-Qadhdhafi Visits Locales, Addresses Leaders

Predicts Regional Problems

LD1401212595

[FBIS Editorial Report] Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic at 1900 GMT on 14 January broadcast a 47-minute speech by Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to the popular leadership in Jadu. The date of the speech is not specified.

Al-Qadhdhafi expresses pleasure at meeting the popular leadership and says that development plans drawn by experts from the area will be put into effect. He says that Jadu has a popular leadership and the area will be able to benefit from enhanced communications through the area coordinator. He says that setting up popular leadership was a significant step toward consolidating people's authority.

Al-Qadhdhafi attributes past shortcomings to a lack of popular leaders. He stresses that what he is saying is not just a slogan; slogans will be translated into reality. He says plans drawn up by experts were practical measures. He emphasizes the role of popular leaders and local experts in implementing development plans.

Al-Qadhdhafi continues by saying that the whole of North Africa is threatened by lack of resources and increasing population, and problems experienced in Algeria were purely economic. Various proposals made to resolve Algeria's problems were a waste of time, because the problem is economic. The problem in Algeria is not about religion or cultural rights, but about material resources.

He says the problem in Yifrin is a shortage of water, and the same applied to Jadu. Moreover, the problem of water shortage is common to the whole of North Africa. He says that the future will witness bloody wars over water resources. Wars will engulf the whole of Africa, the Middle East over water resources. The conflict in the Middle East is a struggle to control water resources.

He continues by saying that the great man-made river is a temporary solution to Libya's water problems. Consequently, Libyans have to change their perceptions and plan for the future. He refers to his meeting yesterday in Yifrin and the development plans drawn up by experts there. He says that people's authority and popular leaderships will guarantee future security. Libya suffered occupation by the Romans and Italians due to a lack of awareness by the masses and the absence of democracy. He says all problems may be defeated by knowledge.

He ends by saying that gasoline revenues are used to import goods, but it has to be borne in mind that gasoline is an exhaustible resource and could not be relied on for ever.

Backwardness Called a Concern

LD1501205295

[FBIS Editorial Report] Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic at 1900 GMT on 15 January carries a 51-minute recorded address by Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to popular leaderships in Nalut, Kabau, and Ghadames; the date of the address is not given.

Al-Qadhdhafi expresses his satisfaction at the good work of local popular leaderships in mobilizing the masses and local experts to establish development projects for the region. Local popular leaderships, he says, are serious assets and an historic achievement. He stresses that Libyans, unlike other Arabs, should carry out what they decide in terms of development projects in order to win the struggle against the colonial legacy. Colonialism, he says, made Arab rulers submissive and it was the cause of all problems in colonized countries, and the way to face it is people's power.

Al-Qadhdhafi continues: Local popular leaderships take care of local problems such as immigration control. He urges people to consume and spend sparingly for the good of the economy, health, and agriculture. He cites Israel and China, which made great achievements with individual contributions to their economies. Libyans, al-Qadhdhafi says, must be serious, unlike FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] militants in Algeria who are destroying the infrastructure of their countries, incited by leaders abroad who call for silly things like teaching the Berber Language. The issue for Libyans, he says, is backwardness, not religious problems, and he concludes by urging Libyans to exert efforts to develop their country.

Al-Hariri Release To Ease 'Popular Discontent'

MM1901101895 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 18 Jan 95 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-HAYAH—Libyan opposition sources have told AL-HAYAH that Libyan authorities last week released Colonel 'Umar al-Hariri, a prominent leader of the September movement that overthrew King Ibris al-Sanusi in 1969. The sources pointed out that al-Hariri had been imprisoned for many years but after his release he was rearrested some months ago following rumors about contacts he had begun to make with his comrade officers. The sources attributed his release to "the regime's attempt to ease growing popular discontent in Libya at worsening conditions and the collapse of the Libyan dinar's value."

Oppostion Sources Cited on Talks With U.S.

MM1001111995 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 7 Jan 95 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-HAYAH—Libyan opposition sources have told AL-HAYAH that several meetings have been held in the United States between U.S. officials and representatives of the opposition "Libyan Movement for Change and Reform," and that these meetings dealt with conditions in Libya and the region, in addition to the Lockerbie crisis.

The sources quoted participants in the meetings as saying that the views "were identical vis-a-vis the Libyans' right to live in freedom and dignity and within the framework of effective full sovereignty." And that meetings "will continue with everyone in the Arab and friendly states and the international community for the sake of the good of the Libyan people, since conditions in the country have reached a very dark stage."

The sources did not reveal the names of the U.S. officials with whom the meeting took place. However, they said the meetings were held during the past 15 days.

Sudan

French Envoy Seeks To Improve Trade

EA1201160095 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 12 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The minister of industry and commerce, Dr. Taj al-Sirr Mustafa, has announced Sudan's readiness to strengthen its economic and trade ties with France. In a meeting this morning with the French ambassador to Khartoum, his excellency stressed that the time had come for the door to be opened to let French companies and businessmen invest in Sudan. He referred to the general policy based on cooperation and mutual understanding and the programs which strengthened foreign investment in the country.

His excellency the ambassador announced that he was on a fact- finding mission aimed at presenting a clear view to French businessmen, so that they can take positive steps toward direct investment in Sudan and toward opening new avenues of trade and economic cooperation between the two countries.

Foreign Minister Welcomes New British Envoy

EA1201200495 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 12 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Husayn Sulayman Abu-Salih has announced that Sudan appreciated the British initiative of appointing a new British ambassador to Khartoum.

In a statement to the radio today, his excellency said Sudan would perform its role of nominating its ambassador as soon as possible so as to normalize relations between the two countries.

He said the new British ambassador worked in Sudan during the 1970's and expressed the hope that relations between the two countries would witness the progress hoped for in the light of these development. Meanwhile, Dr. Abu-Salih said Sudan has not drafted a letter to the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development [IGADD] regarding its decision to reject the appointment of UN observer for the peace talks. Pointing out that Sudan found it appropriate to issue a statement to this effect through the media just as the IGADD states had done by not notifying Sudan formally of this step.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Eager for Better Ties

EA1201205595 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in English 1800 GMT 12 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Egypt's foreign minister, 'Amr Musa, has asserted that Egypt is eager to establish good relations with the Sudan and that Egypt is working toward easing tensions between the two countries. He also added that his country will take whatever necessary [as heard] to strengthen bilateral relations and called on Sudan to work with Egypt toward this objective.

Abu-Salih: Eritrea Not Qualified To Mediate

EA1201205195 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Husayn Sulayman Abu-Salih today in his office met his excellency the U.S. ambassador to Khartoum in regard to the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development [IGADD] initiative.

They discussed the peace process within the framework of the IGADD initiative. Dr. Abu-Salih stressed that Sudan rejected IGADD's proposal to appoint an international observer or any move to internationalize the southern problem. His excellency said that the IGADD groups' role was confined to mediation which should be completely neutral.

He stressed that Eritrea was no longer qualified to mediate, especially following its recent hostile stance against Sudan.

President Makes Statement on Coming Elections

EA1601211395 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The president of the Republic, Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, this morning said at a public rally held in Rabak, the capital of the White Nile State, that there would be elections in the whole of Sudan soon. He pointed out that they would not be like previous elections and would fulfil many people's aspirations. His excellency pointed out that membership of parliament under the National Salvation Revolution would be a duty and an act of trust, and would not be for the pursuit of personal interests.

Lt. Gen. al-Bashir spoke about the Jabalayn Governorate, which witnessed the beginning of the Mahdist Revolution, which raised the banner of La Ilaha Illa Allah [There Is No Other God Except Allah] and united the Sudanese people. His excellency said: The meeting of the National Salvation Revolution is to raise aloft the banner of La Ilaha Illa Allah, and for the unification of Sudan under this banner. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, in Rabak, Lt. Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir opened the Rabak telephone exchange to facilitate access to communication with the rest of Sudan. His excellency also toured the towns and governorates of the White Nile State, as well as the White Nile Military Zone. He inspected installations at Rabak's river port. He also addressed forces moving to Equatoria in southern Sudan and said that peace would be achieved this year, referring to the government's efforts to achieve peace from within.

Government 'Welcomes' Election Observers

EA1701193295 Omdurman Sudan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 17 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mr. Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, the speaker of the Transitional National Assembly, announced that the Sudan Government welcomes receiving foreign observers to oversee the integrity and neutrality of the forthcoming elections. Khalifah was receiving at midday today the American press delegation visiting the country this days. He answered a number of questions posed by the media delegation. He gave them a detailed explanation of the south Sudan problem and the peace achievement endeavors as well as the country's democratic process, the political system, the forthcoming elections, and federalism.

Al-Bashir Dismisses 65 Army Officers

MM1301150095 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 13 Jan 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by Kamal Hamid: "Al-Bashir Dismisses 65 Officers, Among Them Eight Major Generals"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Sudanese President Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir issued a decision yesterday pensioning off 65 officers, among them eight major generals and 75 colonels and brigadiers.

AL-HAYAH has learned that the pensioned-off senior officers include Staff Maj. Gen. Babakr al-Khalifah, commander of the Sudanese War College, and Maj. Gen. al-Hadi Babakr, commander of the central Khartoum zone, which oversees military security in the Khartoum province, in addition to two Air Force officers holding the rank of major generals.

The measures also included Col. 'Abd-al-Baqi al-Jilani Yusuf, chief editor of the newspaper AL-NASR, mouthpiece of the Army. A decision was issued last month to suspend its publication and terminate the operations of the publishing company.

Well-informed sources have said that al-Bashir has decided to extend the service term of four officers in charge of the General Staff for six months, after it had been decided to introduce amendments to the General Command under which Chief of Staff Lt. Gen Ibrahim Sulayman and his deputies would be retired. [passage omitted]

Former Ambassador Explains Transfer Decision

MM1801091095 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 15 Jan 95 p4

[Report by 'Ukashah Abu-al-Dhahab: "Former Sudanese Ambassador to Djibouti: I Did Not Flee But I Left My Work in Protest Against the Government's Policies"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo—'Ali Hamad Ibrahim, the former Sudanese ambassador to Djibouti, has denied his government's claim that he had officially applied for an extension of his work period abroad and that it rejected his request. He said that that never happened and that he did not run away from his work as the government claimed. He said that reports of his escape were fabricated and totally untrue.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Ambassador Hamad said: What happened was that I moved out of my post just one week before the speficied date for the end of my term of work in July because I had completed all the procedures for my asylum in Egypt in April 1994 for the transfer decision in order to be able to bid the Djibouti president farewell in accordance with diplomatic traditions. He added: I requested a temporary vacation with the aim of misleading the Sudanese security organs in order to be able to move all members of my family out of Sudan before announcing my political asylum. That camouflage was indeed successful, as the Foreign Ministry said in its statement that it was surprised by my asylum decision.

The ambassador also said: The Sudanese Government's denial that there were political reasons for my political asylum is also not true. That is the line taken by the government on all those who disagree with it. It treats them as traitors without a cause and as mercenaries.

He added: I was one of the supporters of the slogans raised by the military government but it has failed to cause any change or to fulfill these slogans. That made me change my position on the current government. I emphasize that it failed to make any positive change. In fact, the situation has now seriously deteriorated in the country prompting many to change their attitude toward the government.

He further said: These were the main reasons why I changed my position and sought political asylum. Having returned to Khartoum after a long period of work in Djibouti, I found the situation worse and the country deteriorating at an alarming rate in all fields. Hence my decision to leave my post as ambassador in protest against these internal developments, especially the poor economic and living conditions of the public and the suspension of the development projects.

He said that the government had only managed to fulfill one sole project in the country, and that was the formation of a popular army just to protect it. Sudanese Ambassador 'Ali Hamad added: I am not the first and will not be the last to face such claims by the government. There is Laurence Tombe, the Sudanese ambassador to Romania and Bulgaria, who resigned from his post and was accused by the Sudanese Government of financial and administrative violations. He said he was grateful to the government for not accusing him of embezzling embassy funds as it did with others.

Al-Bashir Promises Development in South

EA1701162795 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 17 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The president of the Republic, Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, yesterday opened the Rabak River base. His excellency also inspected the command of the White Nile military zone at Kosti, south of Khartoum.

In an address to the Armed Forces' fighters, Lt. Gen. al-Bashir told them that the command had great confidence in their ability to defeat the remnants of the rebellion. His excellency said that the march of peace from within had progressed over the lies and statements of the agent [Sudanese People's Liberation Army leader John] Garang. He said that the National Salvation Revolution had sworn to push forward the wheel of construction and rehabilitation in the south until the southern brothers realize what the rebel movement had denied them.

Lt. Gen. al-Bashir stressed that the Armed Forces would be responsible for reconstruction as they had a duty toward the achievement of peace.

Unit Formed To Protect Government Buildings

EA1701205195 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 17 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The interior minister, Staff-Brigadier Dr. Ibrahim Muhammad Khayr, has announced that a joint team from the Central Investigation Bureau and al-Gedaref State yesterday managed to arrest the suspect in the arson attack on the Sudanese Academy of Communication and Media Training in Omdurman on 22 December last year. The suspect (?killed) the guard of the building in the attack. [passage omitted]

This came in a briefing given by the minister at a meeting convened by the Transitional National Assembly [TNA] today on the recent arson attacks against a number of government institutions in Khartoum. The meeting was chaired by TNA Speaker Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah.

The minister's briefing also included facts on the circumstances surrounding the arson attacks against the Sudanese [word indistinct] company, where 300 million Sudanese pounds were lost, and against the Bank of Sudan. His excellency announced that a committee to determine the extent of losses would be set up. He said he had noted that the bank lacked fire-fighting and warning equipment.

In his briefing the minister made a number of observations. He said some installations were not protected and pointed out that the responsibility of protecting them lies with the administrations of these institutions. He also noted the absence of administrative checks to allocate responsibilities inside the institution.

Staff-Brig. al-Tayyib Ibrahim Muhammad Khayr also discussed the regulations that cover protection against arson attacks issued by the previous minister of interior which determined responsibilities before and after arson attacks. The previous minister had also proposed new ideas to prevent these incidents from occurring again.

The interior minister highlighted the measures taken earlier by the relevant authorities to monitor and fight arson attacks as well as putting in place the necessary mechanism to ensure peace and security. His excellency underlined the need to support the civil defense organization, which is hugely underequipped and understaffed, to enable it to fight natural or other disasters.

The interior minister yesterday issued a decree establishing a unit for the protection of installations. [passage omitted]

Tunisia

Ben Ali Receives 'Arafat, Delegation

LD1901093995 Tunis Tunis-7 Television in Arabic 1900 GMT 18 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali met at Carthage Palace this afternoon with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat.

President 'Arafat was accompanied by Faysal al-Husayni, official in charge of Jerusalem affairs in the Palestinian National Authority, and Hakam Bal'awi, central committee member of the Fatah Movement and PLO representative in Tunisia.

After the meeting, which was attended by Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya, President Yasir 'Arafat made the following statement:

[Begin 'Arafat recording] I am pleased to pay this brief visit, particularly after attending the meetings of the Jerusalem Committee in Morocco. These meetings brought about good results concerning a unified Arab and Islamic stance toward the city of Jerusalem and safeguarding its Arab, Islamic, Palestinian, religious, and cultural character, considering that it is the capital of the State of Palestine. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Jordanian Foreign Minister Arrives in Tunis

JN1901070195 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 19 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti arrived in Tunis last night at the invitation of Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahia.

Al-Kabariti will hold talks with the Tunisian officials on bilateral relations and issues related to the Jordanian-Tunisian Higher Committee meetings scheduled to be held in Tunis under the chairmanship of the two countries' prime ministers.

Al-Kabariti had earlier participated in the Jerusalem Committee meetings held in the Moroccan city of Ifrane.

Tunisian-Cameroonian Mixed Commission Meets

LD1701232395 Tunis Tunis-7 Television in Arabic 1900 GMT 17 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The work of the fourth session of the Tunisian-Cameroonian Mixed Commission, which met under the co-chairmanship of the foreign ministers of both countries, ended today. Here are the details with Amal Ounass:

[Ounass] Tunisia and Cameroon agreed to develop bilateral cooperation between them and to give new momentum to the exchanges between them in various fields, giving priority to the sectors of tourism and liquid fuels, as well as privatization, in addition to technical cooperation. The two sides submitted recommendations in this regard, which were included in the minutes of the meeting issued at the end of the fourth session of the Mixed Commission, which met in Tunis on 16 and 17 January.

The two sides also approved a proposal put forward by the Tunisian foreign minister on the establishment of a follow-up committee for the implementation of the recommendations of the Mixed Commission. The follow-up committee will be invited to meet alternately in the capitals of both countries. [passage omitted]

Paper Explains Military Buildup on Saudi-Yemeni Border

NC1801133595 Beirut AL-ANWAR in Arabic 17 Jan 95 pp 1, 15

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] AL-ANWAR has learned that the extensive shuttle trips by Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', which ended in a joint statement on containing the tension on the Yemeni-Saudi border, will, in the next stage, lead to the withdrawal of the military brigades that were massed on both sides of the border.

The joint statement also stressed the need to end the crisis, return the situation to normal, not to use force, and to resume bilateral talks to solve pending border problems.

According to information available to AL-ANWAR, the second stage of the crisis-containment plan will include the withdrawal of the four Saudi brigades from their current positions in the border area. They include three Army brigades and the National Guards' Turki Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Brigade. The Yemeni brigades will also pull out of the region. They include the 8th Brigade (special forces), the 30th Brigade, and the al-Shallal Brigade. The brigades moved to their current positions during the crisis. The agreement also provides for easing the maximum alert in the Armed Forces of the two countries, an alert that involved air, air defense, and naval forces.

AL-ANWAR also learned that further intensive contacts will be held to contain the dispute over the Hammudah border post, which was the reason for the clashes that later developed on the northern border. Air force was used in the clashes, as reported by AL-ANWAR and confirmed later by international news media.

Yemen claims that the Hammudah post lies 40 km inside its territory. But only a few months ago the Saudi flag flew over the center. [passage omitted]

Paper Welcomes Containment of Yemeni-Saudi Border Dispute

MM1801143895 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Jan 95 p9

[Editorial: "Maturity That Overcomes Crises"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The speed with which Saudi Arabia and Yemen managed to contain their border dispute confirms their joint awareness of the common higher pan-Arab interests.

The Saudi-Yemeni announcement of the containment of the recent tension in border areas between the two countries provides fresh evidence that differences between brothers, however serious, can be resolved in the framework of the common national awareness of higher Arab interests. It is nothing new that differences between brothers are ultimately settled in the general Arab interests, particularly if foreign hands and intervention are kept out.

The speed with which Saudi-Yemeni agreement was reached on the restoration of normal conditions and nonuse of force confirms that Arab differences can be easily settled through diplomatic channels and that dialogue was and still is the quickest and safest way of resolving Arab differences.

The fact that the Saudi and Yemeni sides reaffirmed their eagerness to solve the border problem in a way that would safeguard the historical and legal rights of both parties and their eagerness to preserve good-neighborly relations puts the dispute in a realistic context and puts the joint interests of both countries above any other selfish interests.

Clearly, the Saudi-Yemeni agreement will consolidate stability in the region and maintain the peaceful atmosphere necessary for the fulfillment of the development and progress ambitions of the region's states.

At a time of Arab need for unity of ranks in the face of the current challenges and particularly the final phase of the Arab-Israeli peace process, the Saudi-Yemeni position on the border crisis provides a new example of the joint grasp of the priorities of this phase.

The goodwill reflected in the Saudi and Yemeni positions may be a suitable introduction to the efforts to clear the Arab atmosphere of the clouds which, experience has demonstrated, are just passing summer clouds in the Arab skies.

Bahrain

Security Forces Arrest 'Dissidents;' Mosques Pillaged

NC1801133495 Paris AFP in English 1237 GMT 18 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nicosia, Jan 18 (AFP)—Bahraini security forces have arrested more suspected dissidents and pillaged two Shiite Moslem mosques in their crackdown on activists demanding political reforms, an opposition group said Wednesday [18 January].

Diplomats in Manama confirmed that the authorities had carried out arrests and raids Tuesday in a bid to prevent new clashes between demonstrators and security forces.

Speaking to AFP by telephone, they said the Gulf emirate had remained relatively calm since Friday, when the last clashes took place.

The London-based opposition Ahrar al-Bahrayn movement said those arrested Tuesday included two Moslem clerics—Shaykh Muhammad Khujistah and Shaykh

Muhammad Ja'far al-Shihabi. A third cleric, Shaykh 'Aql Rashid al-Durazi, was expelled to Dubai, the statement said.

Security forces also burst into two Shiite mosques Tuesday in Jidd Hafs and Mani, west of Manama, and "pillaged" them, the group said.

Clashes erupted between Shiite demonstrators and security forces after the arrest on December 5 of leading Shiite cleric Shaykh 'Ali Salman. He left Dubai Tuesday two days after being deported there from Bahrain and flew to London, the opposition-in-exile said.

The Islamic Front for the Liberation of Bahrain (IFLB) said a total of 16 people were killed in the unrest, but the Bahraini authorities only acknowledged the death of one policeman.

Shaykh 'Ali was arrested for calling for the restoration of parliament suspended since 1975.

Islamic Front Leader on 'Uprising,' Demands

NC1501162695 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 27 Dec 95 p 12

[Interview with Shaykh Muhammad 'Ali Mahfuz, secretary general of the Islamic Front for the Liberation of Bahrain, by Fu'ad Hutayt; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Hutayt] What is the current limit on political demands in the Bahraini uprising? Is it still the same as what was declared in the popular petition that sparked the incidents, namely, revival of parliamentary life and reviving the National Council (parliament), which was dissolved in 1975?

[Mahfuz] The incidents have so far exceeded the demand for reviving the former National Council, half of whose members were appointed by Shaykh 'Isa (amir of Bahrain) and the other half democratically elected. Indeed, the Constitution of 1973 itself is no longer appropriate in the current circumstances.

[Hutayt] But it is a modern and advanced Constitution.

[Mahfuz] True, it was a developed one for Bahrain at that time, and it still is for many countries in the region. But the people staging the uprising are the ones now calling for the overthrow of Al Khalifah family and holding Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah directly responsible for ordering the security forces to fire at demonstrators.

Moreover, the Constitution of 1973 starts with a basic clause that says: "The ruler is hereditary and the amir's person must not be touched." This is no longer acceptable when the ruling family is controlling everything; in politics, institutions, ministries, economy, trade, and so on.

We cannot raise slogans that are lower in their demands than the slogans raised by the people. People inside Bahrain stress in our contacts with them that the picture given by the media abroad represents no more than 10 percent of what is actually happening in Bahrain.

[Hutayt] What exactly are the demands?

[Mahfuz] Above all, free elections to produce genuine representation. It is true that the former parliament was an advanced step by the region's standards, but it was an incomplete democratic experience. And yet, the government dissolved it when it prevented the passage of certain laws, especially the state security law issued in 1974.

We want genuine democracy based on pluralism, and we call on the ruling family to run in the elections; if it wins, let it be.

[Hutayt] It is as if you are calling for changing the ruler?

[Mahfuz] It is more accurate to say that we are demanding a change in government style, not a change in the ruler; let us not predict things in advance.

[Hutayt] If the government proposes a dialogue to end the uprising, what will your demands be, in addition to what you have just mentioned?

[Mahfuz] We have many demands, the most important of which are: Calling the officials responsible for murder and oppression to account; withdrawing the security forces and returning them to their barracks; restoring calm to the country; releasing detainees and prisoners held during the incidents—a foreign diplomat has estimated their number at more than 1,600, in addition to 22 political prisoners; allowing freedom of the press and expression; and stopping human rights violations, especially the right to travel and return to the country. We also demand—and this is important—that the families of victims killed by police be compensated, and that social justice be achieved.

[Hutayt] Do you think the government will accept a dialogue?

[Mahfuz] There were past experiences where the government rejected dialogue. But now things are different. It is the first time, for example, that we have heard a shaykh a few days ago speaking on official radio about the incidents and criticizing the government and the security measures it took.

[Hutayt] The media is focusing on the sectarian aspect to show what is going on in Bahrain to be incidents involving a Shiite opposition and a government that represents the Sunnis. As a political and (Shiite) religious movement, you are implicated in this so that it would be possible through you to accuse Iran of being behind what is happening. What do you say?

[Mahfuz] We would like to assert that there is no doctrinal or sectarian situation in Bahrain. What is there is a national concern that involves everyone. The Sunnis and Shiites in Bahrain merged and fused together long

ago. This discrimination was introduced by Al Khalifah to impose their power. They were helped in this by the British.

Right now, they are focusing their efforts on giving a sectarian character to the uprising, to show the Al Khalifah family as the "defenders" of the Sunnis. This is absolutely not true; the confrontation in Bahrain at the moment is between the people of all sorts and the regime.

We only have to refer to the statement the Bahraini men of religion issued on 17 December. The statement says: "A follower of recent developments in the country cannot help but say that they are the result of the people's strong, accumulated frustration. Parliamentary life has disappeared and so did the legislative authority's control of government performance. Indecent conduct is widespread, unemployment rates are growing day by day, wages are low, prices and taxes are high, and debts are growing so much that a large sector of the public is deprived of the basic needs of life, not to say its luxuries. The absence of freedom of the press and of expression, the ban on travel that affects a large number of citizens, the withdrawal of citizens' passports, and the unprecedented ban on return to the homeland which affects other citizens, in addition to the violation of the sanctity of people's homes and the random arrest campaigns that involved even children, all this aggravated the people. Instead of understanding people's position and circumstances and trying to pacify matters and contain the situation, the government embarked on a display of power against its unarmed sons. This triggered waves of violence which are originally against the nature of that Muslim people."

The statement adds that "a state of dismay and anger prevailed among all the sectors of the people without exception, including Shiites and Sunnis."

[Hutayt] Iran still views Bahrain as its 14th province. According to news agencies, they teach this in school books. How do you react to this?

[Mahfuz] I would like to point out that no Iranian slogan was raised before or during the present uprising. Exaggeration in this matter is only the policy of the West and the official Bahraini authorities.

The Bahraini opposition is not one and the same thing; there is the Islamic, pan-Arab, and communist opposition, in addition to the pro-West and pro-Iranian opposition.

As for what you said at the beginning of your question, we deny this from our position. I do not think that this is true. Bahrain has 100 percent Arab roots.

[Hutayt] You referred to currents within the Bahraini opposition. Do these currents coordinate their positions at the present stage?

[Mahfuz] Coordination existed before the uprising among the various currents of the opposition, particularly between the Islamic Front for the Liberation of Bahrain and the coordination committee that embraces the Popular Front for the Liberation of Bahrain and the National Liberation Front. We are making contacts these days with brothers in the coordination committee to stimulate the uprising.

[Hutayt] Is there coordination with opposition movements in Gulf states?

[Mahfuz] We have previous experience in that area, especially when we, as Gulf opposition, visited the European Parliament under the name of the Committee for Defending Human Rights. But under the present circumstances, coordination has not reached the desirable level, although there is mutual sympathy among the opposition.

[Hutayt] Don't you think that the West in general, at least according to what we hear or read, sympathizes with the popular movement in Bahrain?

[Mahfuz] The West is contradictory in its outlook on the Bahraini situation. At the parliamentary level, you will find that the Human Rights Committee at the U.S. Congress is criticizing the state of affairs in our country. But the political decision conflicts with that, although the West has full, accurate information on what is happening there.

Through their control of the security establishment, the intelligence, and the criminal security, the British know the capabilities of the political opposition. Hence, they take the necessary measures to deal with it.

Envoy Questions Reports by Human Rights Groups

MS1801133295 London THE TIMES in English 18 Jan 95 p 19

[Letter by Ambassador of Bahrain to Britain, Karim Ebhrahim Al Shakar: "Unrest in Bahrain"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sir, During December Bahrain experienced a wave of unrest deliberately provoked and supported by foreign-based terrorists bent on destabilising the Gulf region.

Unfortunately such international terrorist organisations, which have targeted Bahrain for some years, are adept at disseminating misinformation through the international human rights movement.

There is no truth whatsoever in recent allegations of multiple deaths, 1,600 arrests and continuing pro-democracy demonstrations in Bahrain.

Tragically one policeman was murdered, and two rioters killed whilst attempting to take the lives of other security personnel. Some 450 people were arrested in the course of the violent demonstrations and were remanded in custody.

Over 350 of them have already been released. The remainder are being held, pending further investigations

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Right now, they are focusing their efforts on giving a sectarian character to the uprising, to show the Al Khalifah family as the "defenders" of the Sunnis. This is absolutely not true; the confrontation in Bahrain at the moment is between the people of all sorts and the regime.

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and trial, in humane conditions, afforded the usual visitation rights and medical attention. Until last week, when a couple of minor disturbances occurred, there had been no incidents since December 17.

Recent comments by Lord Avebury chairman of the Parliamentary Human Rights Group (report, January 7), and also by Amnesty International demonstrate a profound misunderstanding of the situation in Bahrain.

My Government is not opposed to visits by bona fide human rights organisations. However, Bahrain is understandably perturbed by Amnesty International's seeming reluctance to condemn terrorist acts aimed at Bahrain s peaceful community and its willingness to give credibility to anti-governmental terrorist propaganda.

Kuwait

UN Mission Provides 'Complete List' of Iraqi-Held Equipment

LD1401181195 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Kuwaiti diplomatic mission at the United Nations last night delivered to the international organization a complete list of the military equipment still retained by the Iraqi regime.

The mission pointed out in a message addressed to UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali that this list complements the lists addressed to the international organization at an earlier time. It stressed that this list contains military equipment used by the Iraqi regime's forces in their hostile provocations toward the Kuwaiti northern border last October.

The message points out that the State of Kuwait does not accept the reparation mechanism as an alternative to the immediate return of this military equipment. It adds that the State of Kuwait's claim for such military possessions at present does not lessen the significance and seriousness of Kuwait's claims for all its belongings seized by the forces of the Iraqi regime during their occupation of the State of Kuwait.

The diplomatic mission said that the State of Kuwait stresses its right in reparations for all the military equipment that was proven not to be in working order after being returned.

The Kuwaiti diplomatic mission stressed in its message that the Iraqi regime is still evading the implementation of its commitments toward the UN Security Council, a matter which confirms that that regime has lost all its credibility, in addition to the nonexistence in Iraqi policy of the principle of peaceful intentions toward the State of Kuwaiti and neighboring countries.

Foreign Minister 'Optimistic' About Russian Talks

LD1601210495 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1758 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 16 Jan—Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, Kuwaiti first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, expressed confidence that the consultations which he will have with officials in Moscow will be in the two countries' interest.

Shaykh al-Sabah, in a statement to the Russian news agency "ITAR TASS," released here by the agency today, noted the Russian stance supporting Kuwait and reflected in Moscow's efforts, which contributed to the liberation of Kuwait from Iraqi occupation, and this was through Moscow's important stand at the UN Security Council.

Shaykh al-Sabah, who is starting his official visit to Moscow tomorrow, noted that the historic and old relations between Kuwait and Russia which are developing in all fields has been reflected markedly by the military cooperation agreement between the two countries.

He expressed satisfaction with the level of the bilateral cooperation especially through the results of the bilateral joint committees in economic, technical, and cultural fields.

He said that the visit of the Russian Prime Minister Chernomyrdin to the State of Kuwait in November was successful.

He explained that during this visit, a number of agreements had been signed covering various fields. Shaykh al-Sabah called for the need to continue the exchange of official visits between the officials of the two countries in order to deepen consultation over regional and international issues of common interest and especially those which concern the situation in the Gulf and the Middle East.

Flies to Moscow for Talks

LD1701104895 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 17 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left for Moscow today on a three-day official visit to Russia. In a statement to KUNA before departure, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad said that his presence there will give an opportunity to hold talks with his Russian counterpart Andrey Kozyrev for achieving more understanding as far as bilateral relations and issues of common interest to the two countries are concerned. [passage omitted]

Holds News Conference With Chernomyrdin

LD1801182595 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1640 GMT 18 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 18 January—The first Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir expressed satisfaction with the "firm" Russian stand on supporting Kuwait and its sovereignty.

He also expressed appreciation for Moscow's efforts to try and find a solution to the tragedy of the Kuwaiti POW's and hostages in Iraq.

He was speaking to journalists after talks he held with Prime Minister Chernomyrdin.

Shaykh Sabah said that he exchanged with the Russian official viewpoints and [word indistinct] concerning bilateral relations and international issues and that he was satisfied with "the Russian firm stand and its support for the State of Kuwait and Kuwait's sovereignty and Russia's insistence concerning the implementation of all the international resolutions connected with the situation in the Gulf area." He expressed appreciation for the efforts which Russia is making for finding a solution to the problem of the Kuwaiti POW's and hostages in Iraq. He said that he hopes "that the efforts will be successful and will bring joy to the Kuwaiti people for the return of their sons."

The Kuwaiti official confirmed the continuation of the implementation of the Kuwait-Russian bilateral agreements which are aimed at the development of relations in all fields.

For his part, Mr. Chernomyrdin said his talks with Shaykh Sabah dealt with developing ways of cooperation between the two countries "which are backed by a number of bilateral agreements, the implementation of which has begun," alluding to the existence of "wide prospects for cooperation between the two sides in the field of investment".

He expressed his satisfaction at the outcome of the talks and said that the current visit of the Russian minister of construction to Kuwait comes (?within) the bilateral agreements signed between the two countries. He expressed his hope that the delegation "would find suitable opportunity for developing the relations in the field of housing and construction."

Concerning the fighting in the Republic of Chechnya the Russian prime minister said Moscow was seeking to find a solution for it "by peaceful means." He also said that he was "satisfied at the Kuwaiti stand supportive of maintaining the Russian territorial integrity."

KIO Director on Investments in Germany

LD1801085895 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0620 GMT 18 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Bonn, 18 Jan (KUNA)—A prominent Kuwaiti investment official here today reaffirmed that the main Kuwaiti investments in Germany were not touched when Kuwait decided to turn some of its foreign investments into liquid assets to bolster the effort of the liberation of Kuwait from the Iraqi invasion and to rebuild it. In an interview with KUNA, the official—Dr. Yusuf al-'Awadi, the managing director of the Kuwaiti Investment Office [KIO] in London—described the Kuwaiti investments in Germany as very useful especially following the reunification of Germany. Dr. al-'Awadi did not rule out that Kuwait may restructure its investments in Germany or study the opportunities available for additional investment in this European country whose economy he described as being promising and which will open many investment possibilities. [passage omitted]

Oman

Diplomatic Ties With Israeli 'Under Discussion'

MM1801142595 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 16 Jan 95 p 5

[Report by Husayn 'Abd-al-Ghani: "Oman: We Have Been Subjected to No Pressure Over Our Relations With Israel"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Muscat—Well-informed sources in Muscat have denied to AL-HAYAH recent reports by some media services that the Sultanate of Oman has asked Israel to delay the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries at "liaison office" level and not to embark on this step this month, January.

The source said that Oman has not set a date for this step in the first place. And that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's visit to Oman late last month did not broach the issue of agreeing on a date for announcing the opening of diplomatic representation offices with Israel. But it focused on the general course of the peace process in the Middle East and on ways of advancing it in order to achieve its ultimate aims—comprehensive withdrawal and a just peace between the Arabs and Israel.

The sources pointed out that media reports about Oman's postponement of an agreed meeting between Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and his Omani opposite number Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin- 'Abdallah, to announce this step are also "inaccurate." Actually there is agreement "in principle" between the two countries to hold this meeting when the two sides' circumstances and engagements permit. [passage omitted]

The sources criticized some circles' "hint" that Oman has delayed the "agreed" step as a result of the Alexandria summit. The sources pointed out that Oman is known for "its independent foreign policy, which it formulates on the basis of its interests, vision, and endeavors to achieve the interests of the region as a whole in terms of peace, stability, and economic prosperity. And it is not subjected to any kind of pressure over its relations with Israel. And the parties to the Alexandria summit, who informed it through diplomatic channels of what was discussed at the summit, did not broach the issue of Rabin's visit or the question of relations between Oman and Israel."

The sources stressed that "the issue of establishing diplomatic relations and exchanging representation between Oman and Israel is actually under discussion. Because contacts with Israel have been a natural thing for any Arab country since 1991 in the framework of all the Arabs' agreement on the 'Madrid peace process.' And if direct meetings between Israel and the Arab states whose territories are occupied are conducted face to face, why should meetings not be held between Israel and other Arab states? However, the decision to exchange representation in the form of liaison offices or in other forms will be made when all elements of the issue are complete. These elements are not limited to bilateral details only but are also linked to regional political elements, most importantly the progress the peace process is going to achieve on the bilateral tracks, especially the Syrian and Lebanese tracks." [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Shura Council Specialist Committee's Members Named

LD1401225995 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 14 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] At its 22nd meeting of 1415 AH [1994-95], the Shura Council decided to reshuffle its specialist committees by naming their members for the 2nd year of the council's first term. The chairman, deputy chairman, and members of each committee was selected as follows:

1. Social Affairs and Health Committee: Dr. Falih Bin-Zayd al- Falih, chairman; Dr. Salih Bin-'Abdullah al-Malik, deputy chairman. Members: Ahmad Bin-Hamad al-Yahya, Dr. Zuhayr Bin-Ahmad al-Siba'i, Dr. Suhayl Bin-Hasan al-Qadi, Dr. Mansur Bin-Muhammad al-Nuzhah.

2. Islamic Affairs Committee: Dr. Ahmad Bin-'Ali Thayr Mubaraki, chairman; Dr. Zahir Bin-'Awwad al-Anna'i, deputy chairman. Members: Ibrahim Bin-'Abd al-Fattah Julaydan, Dr. Usamah Bin-'Abdullah Khayyat, Dr. Hamad Bin-Muhammad al-Furayyan, Dr. Salih Bin-Sa'ud al- 'Ali, Shaykh Salih Bin-'Abd al-Rahman al-Mazru', Shaykh Salih Bin- 'Abdullah Bin Humayd, Dr. 'Abd al-Rahman Tayyib al-Ansari, Dr. 'Ali Bin Ibrahim al-Namlah, Shaykh Muhammad Bin 'Abdullah al-Salim.

3. Economic and Finance Committee: Muhammad Bin 'Abdullah al- Sharif, chairman; Dr. Jamil Bin 'Abdullah al-Jushi, deputy chairman. Members: Bakri Bin-Salih Shafa, Tawfiq Bin-Ibrahim Tawfiq, Khalid Bin-Muhammad al-Qusaybi, Dr. Ziyad Bin-'Abd al-Rahman al-Sudayri, Dr. 'Abd al-Rahman Bin-Ahmad al-Ja'fari, 'Abd al-Latif Bin-Hamad al- Jabr, Dr. 'Ali Bin-Talal al-Juhani, Muhammad Bin-Ahmad Yusuf Zaynal.

4. Security Affairs Committee: Retired Major General Kamal Bin- Siraj al-Din al-Mirghanani, chairman; Retired Major-General 'Abd al- 'Aziz Bin-Muhammad al-Shaykh, deputy chairman. Members: Retired Lieutenant General Ibrahim Bin-Muhammad al-Faris, retired Major General Jamil Bin-Muhammad al-Miman, Dr. Suhayl Bin-Hasan al-Qadi, Dr. Salih Bin-Zayn al-Abidin al-Shaybi, Dr. Muhammad Bin-'Abd al- 'Aziz al-Mu'ammar.

5. Statutes and Administration Committee: Muhammad Bin-'Abdullah al-Nafi', chairman; Dr. 'Abdullah Bin-'Abd al-'Aziz al-Munifi, deputy chairman. Members: Ibrahim Bin-Qadhi al-Qadhi, Dr. Ahmad Bin-'Ali Thayr Mubaraki, Dr. Salih Bin-'Abdullah al-Malik, Dr. 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Ali al-Nu'aym.

6. Educational, Cultural, and Media Affairs Committee: Dr. Fahd al-'Urabi al-Harithi, chairman; Dr. Sa'id Bin-Muhammad al-Mulays, deputy chairman. Members: Dr. Rida Muhammad 'Ubayd, Dr. Salih Bin- Sa'ud al-'Ali, Dr. 'Abd al-Rahman Bin-Salih al-Shubayli, Dr. 'Abd al-Rahman Tayyib al-Ansari, 'Abdullah Bin-Hamad al-Qar'awi, Dr. 'Ali Bin-Ibrahim al-Namlah, Dr. Muhammad al-Ahmad al-Rashid, Muhammad Bin-'Abdullah al-Humayd, Dr. Mansur Bin-Ibrahim al-Hazimi.

7. Foreign Affairs Committee: Dr. 'Abd al-'Aziz Bin-Ibrahim al- Fayiz, chairman; Dr. 'Abdullah Bin-'Abd al-Muhsin al-Sultan, deputy chairman. Members: Sulayman Bin-'Abd al-Rahman al-Salih, 'Abd al-Rahman Bin-'Abdullah Aba al-Khayl, retired Major General 'Abd al- 'Aziz Bin-Muhammad Al al-Shaykh, Dr. Nizar Bin-'Ubayd Madani, Dr. Hashim 'Abdu Hashim.

8. Services and Public Utilities Committee: 'Imran Bin-Muhammad al-'Imran, chairman; 'Abdullah Bin-Muhammad al-'Ulayqah, deputy chairman. Members: Engineer Zuhayr Bin-Hamid al-Fayiz, 'Abd al- 'Aziz Bin-Muhammad Abu Mulhah, Dr. 'Abd al-Qadir Bin-Hamzah Kushak, Dr. Faysal Bin-Ahmad Zaydan, Dr. Muhammad Bin-Ibrahim al-Jarallah, Dr. Muhammad Bin-'Abd al-'Aziz Bin-Mu'ammar. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

Defense Minister Receives British Counterpart

JN1801113295 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0900 GMT 18 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dubayy, 18 Jan (WAKH)—His Highness General Muhammad Bin-Rashid Al Maktum, Dubai's heir apparent and minister of defense in the United Arab Emirates, today received Malcolm Rifkind, the United Kingdom's secretary of state for defense.

During the meeting, the two sides exchanged viewpoints on a number of bilateral issues and on regional and international issues of common interest. Moreover, they discussed bilateral relations within the framework of existing cooperation in various fields.

The British secretary arrived in Dubayy this morning.

Defense Agreement Signed With France

JN1801100495 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0910 GMT 18 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Abu Dhabi, 18 Jan (WAKH)—The United Arab Emirates [UAE] and France signed a defense agreement in Abu Dhabi today. Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, minister of state for foreign affairs, signed the agreement on behalf of the UAE Government, while Francois Leotard, French Minister of State for Defense, signed the agreement on behalf of the French Government.

A press statement issued following the signing of the agreement at the UAE Foreign Ministry today said that this agreement expresses the existing relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries for over 20 years and is an indication of their strategic alliance and cooperation in the political and military fields.

Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan and the French minister of state for defense exchanged views on issue of mutual interest in various fields.

Yemen

'Sources' Welcome Saudi-Yemeni Joint Statement

MM1801114095 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Jan 95 p3

[Report by Hammud Munsir: "Responsible Source in Sanaa Criticizes Egyptian Statement on Mubarak-Salih Talks Results; Yemeni Circles Optimistic About Overcoming Differences, Basing Their Optimism on Eagerness of Saudi and Yemeni Leaderships To Do So"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Sanaa—Yemeni political and social circles have received with great satisfaction and optimism the Saudi-Yemeni joint statement announced late evening the day before yesterday by the media in both countries.

Yemeni political sources of various affiliations have stated that the statement, in which Yemen and Saudi Arabia announced their agreement to contain the tension which prevailed in border areas in recent weeks, restore the situation to what it was before, and refrain from using force, confirmed the willingness of both sides to employ wisdom and adhere to good-neighborly relations.

Some Yemeni sources said that the statement was a positive step toward enhancing the negotiation process and a fraternal dialogue to settle all differences.

Meanwhile, a responsible Yemeni source has expressed amazement at and condemnation of the statement made by an Egyptian responsible source and carried by Egyptian media about the consultations held the day before yesterday between Presidents Husni Mubarak and 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, as to the nature and causes of the tension on the Saudi-Yemeni borders.

In a statement released in Sanaa yesterday, the Yemeni source said that "that statement had nothing to do with reality and was not in line with the good efforts made by President Husni Mubarak during his meeting with Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih on Sunday [15 January] in Cairo where he stopped on his way to Paris.

"Furthermore, the statement contradicted the basis and the principles on which the Syrian mediation was based and the results it produced."

In conclusion, the Yemeni source said: "While appreciating all the good efforts made to contain the border tension between the two fraternal countries, the Yemeni Republic is confident that the wisdom and knowledge of the two leaderships, represented by Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz and President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, and their eagerness to fulfill all the aspirations of the two fraternal peoples and serve their security and stability, can eliminate the causes of the dispute whatever they may be and settle the border issue satisfactorily and fairly."

'Sources': Yemeni-Saudi Border Situation 'Still Tense'

MM1801151095 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 17 Jan 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Deployments Continuing Despite 'Statement'; al-Iryani Heads For Washington; Salih Will Not Visit Riyadh Soon; Yemeni-Saudi Border Still 'Tense;' U.S. Intervention Prevented War at Last Moment"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Paris, AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI—The situation is still tense on the Yemeni-Saudi border, since deployments are continuing on both sides of the border. There have been no reports of mutual pullouts from the two main spots of tension in the governorates of al-Maharah and Sa'dah.

Yemeni sources have told AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI that the Yemeni Foreign Minister has flown to Washington on a surprise visit believed to be aimed at briefing U.S. officials on all developments and exploring their views on these developments.

The sources ruled out a visit to Riyadh in the coming few days by President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to discuss the border dispute with the Saudi monarch, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz. The sources also denied that the committee entrusted with preparing for this visit, which is headed by House of Representatives Speaker Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, is preparing to go to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as evidence of the success of the Syrian-Egyptian mediation. The sources said that the differences between the two sides are still substantial, and that last-minute U.S. intervention between the two parties prevented a military confrontation.

The sources said that the Yemenis are discontented with Saudi Arabia's sheltering of the Yemeni opposition and arming of some rebellious tribes near the oil fields and exploration areas in northwest Yemen. And that they consider this a violation of the stipulations of the al-Ta'if agreement, which bans the two sides from sheltering oppositionists.

The sources said that Saudi officials expressed their alarm at Yemen's facilitating the departure for Britain of Dr. Muhammad al-Mas'ari, chairman of the Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights in Saudi Arabia. The Yemeni president pledged to avoid engaging in a war with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, indicating yesterday that he might visit the Kingdom to settle a border dispute that has led to the escalation of tension between the two countries recently.

However, Salih, who began an official visit to Paris the day before yesterday, said that that visit requires good preparation. He declined to explain what he meant. [passage omitted]

Cabinet Denies Yemeni Forces Buildup, Border Encroachments

JN1801184795 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1715 GMT 18 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Council of Ministers held its regular session this morning under Prime Minister Brother 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani.

The council discussed the items listed on its agenda, foremost being last week's developments in relations between the Republic of Yemen and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia following the incident in the northeastern part of the homeland on 10 January. The Council of Ministers gave this topic the attention and care it deserves and listened to what the prime minister and the defense minister had to say.

The council emphasized the sound and firm stand of the Republic of Yemen which is eager to safeguard relations of brotherhood and good-neighborliness with the brothers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The council voiced great appreciation for the kind initiative on the part of His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Syrian Arab Republic, which brought about the joint Yemeni-Saudi statement announced on Sunday, 15 January. The council viewed this statement as an important step on the road to preparing the appropriate atmosphere for developing fraternal relations between the two countries. A visit by brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is expected to take place after the committee formed for this purpose completes preparations.

The council stressed the need to abide by the contents of the joint statement in order to eliminate tension, contain the current problem, and contribute to making the bilateral negotiations a success and restoring normal relations between the two countries in a spirit of understanding, brotherhood, and good-neighborliness.

At the same time, the Council of Ministers emphasized that the Yemeni Armed Forces have not carried out any buildups and did not cross borders at any time. On the contrary, The buildups have taken place on the side of the brothers in the kingdom, and the Yemeni Government is very eager to maintain security and stability in the region. It seeks peaceful and acceptable solutions for the Yemeni-Saudi border problem through direct bilateral negotiations between the leaderships of the two countries led by Brother Lieutenant General President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, and his brother King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques.

The Yemeni Government is confident that these brotherly negotiations full of fraternal Arab and Islamic spirit—and characterized by good intentions—will lead to solutions satisfactory to both sides and preserve the legitimate rights of both parties. Nevertheless, any differences in views that are not overcome through dialogue and bilateral negotiations can be resolved through arbitration or by the International Court of Justice.

We firmly believe that the peaceful resolution of problems between us and the brothers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is certainly better than resorting to force or threatening to use force. This will spare the blood of the sons of the two peoples who are connected by fraternal bonds of blood, faith, neighborliness, and joint interests, and save their energies and capabilities in order to preserve security and stability in the region and support the Arab nation and Islamic nation to confront all challenges and dangers they are facing.

The council discussed a number of agenda issues and adopted appropriate decisions on them.

Salih Views Dispute With Saudis, Summit Prospects

NC1901091295 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 19 Jan 95

[Telephone interview with President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, in Bonn, by Fawzi al-Jundi, in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Jundi] We welcome you to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Salih] Thank you.

[Al-Jundi] President Salih, could you tell us briefly about the purpose and results of your current European tour?

[Salih] This visit was planned long ago. Shortly after the war with the separatists ended we began thinking of visiting these friendly countries. Before visiting France, the Netherlands, and Germany, I stopped in Cairo and met brother President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. I briefed him on developments in Yemen, including our border problem with the Saudi brothers. President Mubarak and the Egyptian Government showed sincere understanding of our concerns. The brothers in Egypt and Syria, the Yemeni leaders, and the Saudi leaders tried to solve this problem, which we view as a transient thing. We must contain it, using wisdom and reason. We believe dialogue should replace the tension. Dialogue is the best method. We favor dialogue and want to settle disputes peacefully, whether this is done bilaterally between the concerned parties or with the assistance of Arab good offices. We are ready to discuss this issue on any level the Saudi brothers choose. If there is a political will, we can reach a solution. There is a political will to do so on our side. We hope the two parties share the same political will and sincerity so that we can reach a mutually satisfactory and fraternal solution. Yemen and Saudi Arabia are two Muslim neighbors. Tension and disputes do not benefit the two neighboring countries, the region's security and stability, or inter-Arab solidarity. We must learn a lesson from what befell our Arab nation during and after the Gulf war. We must close the dossier on the past with all its tragedies and suffering and open a new dossier of frankness, brotherhood, and clarity. If we do so we will be doing a service to our Arab nation. Perhaps settling the Yemeni-Saudi problem will be the key to improving inter-Arab ties, eliminating many misunderstandings, and discouraging those who want to stir Arab resentment.

[Al-Jundi] President Salih, we have heard that a three-way summit is being planned and that President Mubarak will attend it.

[Salih] We welcome any bilateral, tripartite, or quadripartite meeting on any level. The important thing is to spare the region any problems. We pose no threat to our neighbors. Even if our neighbors provoke, we will not retaliate. We are a peaceful country the main concern of which is to feed its 16 million people. To Yemen, the real battle is the economy, not such transient quarrels.

[Al-Jundi] Mr. President, we know that the recent war in Yemen cost the Yemeni Government $11 billion. Consequently it is believed that Yemen will never enter into a conflict with another country. Can we say that Yemen primarily wishes to safeguard its relations with the brothers, most notably in the Gulf and in Saudi Arabia?

[Salih] Yemen wishes to maintain its good ties with the other Arabian Peninsula countries, particularly Saudi Arabia, and other Arab countries. Yemen is extending its hand to all its Arab brothers.

[Al-Jundi] Mr. President, do you believe the Alexandria summit produced fruitful results through the recent contacts between you and Saudi Arabia?

[Salih] That summit, if it was meant to boost Arab solidarity, was a positive step.

[Al-Jundi] Do you believe the current circumstances necessitate holding an emergency Arab summit?

[Salih] First, you must prepare the ground. You must clear up the differences and eliminate the painful memories so that the delegates can come to the summit ready and willing. We welcome holding a summit. If the Alexandria Summit among President Mubarak, King Fahd, and brother Hafiz al-Asad was a preparatory step to clear the differences among the Arab brothers, we must thank them for this step. It will have its positive repercussions. The Arab League, boosted by the Alexandria meeting, must now play an influential role in every Arab capital. It must not pick and choose but deal with everyone in the same way, because we are one Arab nation. We will receive such a development with great satisfaction.

[Al-Jundi] Mr. President, do you believe the solution lies in submitting the Yemeni-Saudi conflict to the International Court of Justice [ICJ]?

[Salih] Actually we prefer a solution to be reached bilaterally. If this does not work or there are new disputes and further tension between the two countries, they can resort to arbitration, mediators, or the ICJ. This is better than risking unpleasant consequences.

[Al-Jundi] Mr. President, some are afraid of a united Yemen.

[Salih] Yemeni unity is the Yemeni people's concern. It will not harm their brothers. Indeed it is a source of strength and pride for the Arab nation. All the Arabs are proud of unity. Unity is as much a gain for the Arab nation as it is for Yemen. We have always aspired to total pan-Arab unity. We consider our union as a brick in the structure of Arab unity. We regard any grouping, for example the Gulf Cooperation Council, as a positive step toward pan- Arab unity. Any grouping serving the cause of Arab solidarity and unity is a positive feature.

[Al-Jundi] Mr. President, how do you assess Yemeni-Gulf relations in general?

[Salih] We seek good relations. Relations are good. They were good before the war. But during the Gulf war there were misunderstandings, misinformation, and media distortion of the facts. Such reports were meant to give the impression that there were disagreements and that so-and-so was supporting so-and-so and so on. All this was erroneous information serving the Arab nation's enemies.

[Al-Jundi] President Salih, thank you very much.

[Salih] I wish to thank the Voice of the Arabs.

Correction to Tension at Yemen Border 'Contained'

LD1501222195

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Tension at Yemen Border 'Contained'," published in the 17 January Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, pages 36-37:

Page 36, column two, second to last paragraph, first sentence make read: ...Riyadh, 15 Jan—The following joint statement has been issued between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Yemen Republic: [new paragraph]

At the graceful... (supplying dropped sentence)

Acting Envoy to Spain: Embargo To Be Lifted 'in May'

BR1801122695 Madrid EL MUNDO in Spanish 18 Jan 95 p 21

[Interview with 'Abd-al-Karim al-Sudani, acting ambassador to Spain, by Jaime Barrientos; place and date not given: "We Will Give the United States No Excuses for Continuing With the Embargo"—first paragraph is EL MUNDO introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] The post of Iraqi ambassador to Spain having been vacant since its holder's defection during the Gulf War, the current acting ambassador takes stock of the situation four years after the allied intervention in the Gulf.

[Barrientos] What has changed in Iraq and in the world in these four years?

[Al-Sudani] Many things. Almost all the UN Security Council members have changed their attitude. Now most of the countries are prepared to lift the embargo. Since the war, life has been very hard for the Iraqi people. The situation is dramatic, terrible, especially for the children and old people, who are dying through lack of medicines.

[Barrientos] But the United States says that Iraq is not complying with the UN resolutions.

[Al-Sudani] The United States is a single country on the Security Council, which comprises 15 members, including Spain. We know that even Britain is in favor of lifting the embargo. We are forced to carry out all the resolutions, but nobody imposes an embargo on Israel, which has not heeded 418 UN resolutions and recommendations. In May of this year, things are going to change. There will be great changes in that month.

[Barrientos] What changes?

[Al-Sudani] The lifting of the embargo. The UN special commission which visited Iraq in November in order to check that our country is carrying out the resolutions will issue its report in May, and we are almost certain that it will be favorable.

[Barrientos] Iraq faced a multinational army because of its interest in annexing Kuwait. Today it has not only finally lost the province but has also had to recognize Kuwait as a sovereign nation.

[Al-Sudani] We have been forced to comply with all the resolutions, and that is one of them. We wish to give the Americans no excuse for continuing with the embargo.

[Barrientos] Almost all Iraq's military equipment in 1991 was of U.S. origin. Did you ever come to believe that you could defeat the U.S. Army?

[Al-Sudani] Defeat? No, never. We are not so unrealistic. Following the fall of the USSR's empire, U.S. power is indisputable. It is the world's leading power, but the fact is that Iraq did not enter into conflict with the United States. It was the Americans who sought the pretext of Kuwait and of alleged threats to Saudi Arabia and other countries in the area in order to try to put an end to the Iraqi regime.

*U.S. Accused of Fresh Crusade Against Arabs, Muslims

95LH0043A Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 21 Nov 94 pp 1-2

[Article by Salah al-Mukhtar in "Viewpoint" ' column: "America's Crimes in Iraq and Bosnia"]

[FBIS Translated Text] What is the story with Bosnia-Herzegovina these days? Suddenly this issue has become the most important one in the media. Western commentators have begun to speak of a "grave schism" in the Atlantic alliance because of the "difference" in the American and European positions on this issue. Yet others are concerned about the American-Russian split on it.

What has happened? When we go beyond the smoke that misleads and obscures true motives, we notice several phenomena. Among these are American-European disagreement, which is now over the question of lifting the embargo imposed on Bosnia by a Security Council resolution. America wants to lift it and has actually taken a step in this direction, while France, Germany, and Britain believe that this could complicate Yugoslavia's crisis or even set off a Balkan war instead of putting out the Yugoslav fire now burning. Thus they insist on maintaining the embargo and implementing UN resoltuions firmly in order to arrive at a solution.

One of the biggest and dirtiest American games of deception in this regard has been the game of suggesting that America "sympathizes" with the Muslims of Bosnia and wants to reduce their sufferings! To find out the hidden objectives behind this game, we must note the reactions to this American position. The Arab slaves, especially the ones who rule Cairo and Riyadh, found in the American position support for their slavery and dependency, whenever they set out to promote the American position as "sympathy with the Muslims"!

America wants to establish this suggestion without confirming it, because it knows that its Arab slaves have been wholly exposed as America's obedient Mamlukes and wants to reward them with a position that appears to permit their national treason and status as agents to the filthiest imperialism the Arab nation has ever experienced—American imperialism—on the grounds that America sympathizes with the Muslims!

America's other objective is to respond to the charge that it is carrying out an international criminal plot against the Arabs, the Islamic world, and Islamic culture and religion, as part of the strategy of "culture wars" that the Clinton administration is promoting. This strategy is based on the hypothesis that the collapse of communism ended the war between capitalism and communism. Because the attempt by the criminal George Bush to establish a new world order failed, the world is sinking into chaos and wars resulting from the clash and contradiction of Eastern (Arab-Islamic-Buddhist-Confucian) cultures with Western cultures and the struggle of ethnicities and minorities in the world.

This is America's global strategy, driven by the igniting of religious, sectarian, ethnic, and communal wars, and making them drag on as a substitute for the Cold War! In this plan, the Arabs and Islam are enemy targets that must be destroyed by drowning the Arab nation and the Islamic world in wars and destructive economic crises, in order to annihilate millions and defeat Arab nationalism and Islam.

The embargo on Iraq is a genocidal war against the Iraqis, and America and Europe intend to destroy Algeria as a state and to annihilate millions of Algerians by igniting a civil war, by exhausting Sudan, blockading Libya, and turning Egypt into a huge graveyard with no sovereignty—only poverty, death, torture, and so on. These examples convince every Arab and Muslim that America is starting a new Crusade against the Arabs and Muslims for motives that are at once strategic and racist, exploiting the current transitional phase in the world to debase the Arabs and Muslims by imposing Zionist conditions openly and to make Arab Mamlukes such as Husni Mubarak and Fahd take pride in their "era of brotherhood" with the Zionists, at the same time they are helping to annihilate the Iraqis and trying to starve them to death, just as the Mamluke Husni Mubarak did recently!

As part of its tactic to confuse the Arabs and Muslims, America does not want to provide an instance for it to be condemned on the charge of hostility to the Arabs and Islam, so it has exploited the events in Bosnia to suggest, indirectly, that it is "tilting" toward the Muslims there. It has announced an end to its monitoring of the process of enforcing the Security Council resolution imposing the blockade on the import of arms to Bosnia, and it has leaked information saying that it encourages the sending of arms to stop the Serbs at certain borders, and, finally, that it will officially and unilaterally lift the embargo!

What is the secret behind this American position? Does America really support the position of the Muslims in Bosnia now? Or does it seek to achieve unseen goals beyond what appearances indicate?

If we go beyond the American game of suggestions and deal with the true motives for the switch in the American position on Yugoslavia, we can establish the following facts: first, by supporting the Bosnian Muslims with arms, America does not want to support the Muslims in order that they may win. The proof is that the Serbs have launched a counteroffensive in which they have regained about 80 percent of the land the Muslims had liberated; and the arms offered the Muslims are insufficient to decide the war, because they are limited. Indeed, America's aim in this is to have the Yugoslav war rage indefinitely, and not to stop it until it has engulfed the whole Balkan region and Eastern Europe!

If the Muslims in Bosnia are defeated, then the war is over, its flames will be extinguished, and stability will return to Yugoslavia. This result would be the opposite of what America wants, which is the disintegration of Yugoslavia and its transformation into dynamite with which to start a huge fire engulfing all of Eastern Europe and the Balkans (Greece, Turkey, and Albania).

Thus the first step in this plan is the committing of crimes of unlimited cruelty and inhumanity against the Muslim men and women of Bosnia, in order to render peace and coexistence impossible, so that vengeance and revenge will take over! The murder of more than a quarter of a million Muslims and the rape of more than 60,000 Muslim woman are a criminal plot hatched by U.S. intelligence in cooperation with Serb factions, in order to perpetuate the struggle and transform it into continual war without end!

After this step comes the next step, which is support for the Muslims so that they will not be defeated and the conflict will not end; so that they will be pushed into believing that America sincerely supports them, and so they will continue the struggle with the aim of getting revenge. The final secession too is fueled by their positions. Giving arms to the Muslims while America ignores the embargo imposed upon them, and encouraging them to attack the Serbs, are all part of the American plan to make the Yugoslav war drag on.

This fact explains the reason for not deterring the Serbs when they launched their counterattack, even though America would have been able to do that easily. It became perfectly clear that America permits support for the Serbs, via European countries, when they apply more pressure than is needed, but when they went beyond certain bounds of power, it supported the Muslims in order to check the Serbs, so that a balance of anxiety permitted the continuation, expansion, and spread of the Yugoslav war. That is the truth of the American position, which is certainly a criminal position because it is based on the extermination of millions.

Some wonder, however, why America is doing this. America is doing it in order to destroy the development and progress that Western Europe has achieved in recent years, and to hamper the European Union, to reach its final objective: keeping Western Europe subservient and submissive to America; not permitting it to become an independent global power and competitor to America. The best way of doing this is to drown Western Europe in streams of refugees fleeing the hell of Eastern Europe and the Balkans.

Since 1990, France has been very worried by this American plan, and very highly placed French sources, which we refrain from naming now, estimate that France expects a deterioration in conditions in Eastern Europe and the outbreak of civil and communal wars there, leading to the flight of 5-10 million Eastern Europeans to Western Europe. This process requires the shelter, feeding, employment, and service of this huge number of people, even though Western Europe has not taken this into consideration. Even had it prepared, it would not be able to bear it; thus it will be facing a crushing blow to the European Union project due to events in Eastern Europe, which will drain the economy of the European Union.

The expectations of that very senior French official have become reality just two years later. The wave of emigration, of tens of thousands, from Eastern to Western Europe has begun, creating complex problems that are mounting every day, with the same volume and at the same rate as the escalation of the Yugoslav war and crises in the countries of the former Soviet Union and the rest of the countries of Eastern Euorpe.

So the second fact is that America's encouragement of the Muslims in Bosnia is intended to prolong the Bosnian war and expand it so that thousands and millions will flee, if other wars break out in the Balkans, to Western Europe and thus swamp the European Union and leave the countries of Western Europe under the American umbrella.

The third fact is the Clinton administration's conviction that the situation of the world in certain areas is uncontrolled chaos, or controlled chaos, but the fact that there are no absolute guarantees that they will remain controlled is linked to a number of factors, chiefly the "Russian factor." It would be wrong to suppose that the Russian factor has arisen because of Iraq, for the question is far more profound than that. For Russia, having absorbed the blow of the collapse of the Soviet Union and learned the lessons of that difficult situation, has entered the phase of renewal. It is a renewal fundamentally based, before any other consideration, on restoring Russia's role as a superpower.

All of the Russians without exception understand that America has deceived them, that it is acting to humiliate them, to prevent their renaissance and the restoration of their power. Thus the Russian nationalist tendency has been stirring, and Russia's leaders have begun to seek practical ways out of the crisis. This widespread Russian awareness, then, is based on a popular and governmental insistence that Russia not be permitted to become a third-rate power, and that it form the connections and alliances that would enable it to regain its role as a superpower as quickly as possible.

America understands perfectly the momentous events that have occurred and are still occurring and that it is implicated more than any other party. Therefore it undertook to follow a quasi-Cold War policy, a toned-down version. Now America is pressuring Russia to prevent it from regaining its role. Supporting the Muslims against the Serbs is a direct challenge to Russia and a strong blow against the power of its role and its reputation. Even graver than that, America now wants to "contain" the Serbs in Yugoslavia, using force and might, by pressuring them via the Muslims, thus depriving Russia of a region that should be within Russia's vital sphere of influence.

This is the first side of the new cold war between Russia and America. The other side is Iraq. Russia, for objective and practical reasons, was compelled to regain its role as a superpower by relying upon Eastern relations and halting its policy of relying on the Western relations, which the events of the last four years have shown to be useless.

By Eastern relations we mean Russia's inclination to build economic and trade relations with the countries of the east, which need less-advanced goods, due to the embargo upon these countries (such as Iraq) by America and Western Europe, or the backwardness or poverty of the same countries, which inclines them to buy cheaper goods, but which are less advanced.

Extraordinary industrial development in America, the European Union, and Japan are rendering Russia unable to compete against the world trading bloc. Thus its first and most important option is the east! In addition to that, Russia needs powerful friends in the east, which it can trust as a result of proven policies and a strong situation in their countries, offering stability and continuity. Lastly, it needs energy, because Russia's oil reserves will be exhausted in the next century.

Iraq, in this context, is at the heart of Russian concerns, and its positive connection is one of the conditions of Russian success in overcoming the hardships ofthe new Russian national renaissance. America understands this and watches it anxiously, so it struck down the Russian initiative and lit the fuse of the war in the Gulf and the issuing of the "Baghdad communique," which was seen as a sharp and powerful Russian blow to America. America responded to it in Yugoslavia—it is a proxy war, disguised once again, made indirect and camouflaged.

Finally, we must say that the third fact is that America wants to make up for the slump in its arms sales over the last two years by selling arms to Muslims in Bosnia. There is information saying that a $5 billion American arms deal is in preparation, between America and its Arab Mamelukes, to be sent to Bosnia. Is there any theft more brazen than that? Has humanity ever seen such decadence and egoism as we now see in American behavior?

America is playing with human corpses and washing its hands in the blood of Muslims, then consuming their substance, while Iraqi children die of starvation and young Algerians are assassinated by American bullets!

*Zionist USNSC Elements Said Behind 'Aggression'

95LH0051A Paris AL-MUHARRIR in Arabic 21 Nov 94 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] Press sources in Washington believe that the report prepared by the United States National Security Council [USNSC] on 29 July 1994, in which the Council considers Iraq to be a major obstacle confronting regional cooperation between Israel and the Arab countries, was behind the heightening of the crisis with Iraq. The report shows that Iraq, under Saddam Husayn's leadership, would constitute a permanent threat to this cooperation by feigning political crises either with Israel or with the Gulf States. The report also says that, even if Iraq were to approve regional cooperation projects, she would still work toward achieving her goals. Observers here have noticed that the National Council's director Anthony Lake is the one who introduced the "mutual deterrent" theory and that Dr. Martin Indyk, head of the Middle East Department, is one of the staunchest advocates of Zionism in the Clinton administration.

Observers have also noticed that the report includes paragraphs indicating the necessity of getting rid of Saddam Husayn of Iraq, 'Umar al-Bashir of Sudan and Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi of Libya; this proves the stubborn animosity of America toward whatever might be a symbol of the persistent defense of the Arabic and Islamic identity of the region.

Observers have indicated that Iraq's recognition of Kuwait put off the ignition of the new explosion and the conspiracy that the Zionist centers inside the American administration were preparing.

Special sources have indicated that, during the latest crisis between Iraq and Kuwait, the Pentagon objected to sending more American troops to the region indicating that the troops who remained stationed there since the Gulf war were sufficient. However, due to pressure from the Zionist factions in the National Security Council, particularly Anthony Lake and Martin Indyk, Clinton refused the Pentagon's recommendation and insisted on sending more American forces. Clinton therefore prepared for a real military confrontation with Iraq to coincide with the latest parliamentary elections. However, Iraq's retreat denied President Clinton this opportunity. This situation made the American administration more furious because it crushed the Democrat's elections plan.

British Prime Minister John Major supported President Clinton's conspiracy for a confrontation with Iraq and the ousting of President Saddam Husayn. Sources in Washington indicated that Clinton was hoping that the Iraqi president would have provided a justification for the American troops to enter Iraq. Clinton considered this justification necessary at this stage in order to convince the peoples of the region that the United States was defending stability, security, and cooperation among the countries of the Middle East. Sources close to the White House indicated that President Clinton had been planning during this period a scenario for a confrontation with Iraq. Clinton had also opposed the Arab idea of conciliation and the bridging of differences that Egypt and the Arab Emirates had proposed. The Arab proposal would have succeeded had not Clinton interfered by having dozens of communications with some Arab leaders in the region and succeeding in convincing them to reject the idea of cooperation with President Saddam Husayn's regime.

The same sources also indicate that Washington has complete control over the Iraqi file in spite of the opposition of Russia, France, and China to this attitude. Furthermore, reports prepared by Rolf Ekeus, head of the United Nations team responsible for the inspection of the weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, are first subjected to American reviewing by experts from the State Department and the National Security Council-...before these reports are sent to either the United Nations or the Security Council. The same sources also indicated that Richard Forbes, the outstanding American expert working with Ekeus, prepared during the last few months three reports about whether Iraq was abiding by the United Nations Security Council resolutions. These reports included some deliberately falsified information.

Other negative American attitudes include the American ambassador to the United Nations Madeleine Albright's stand vis-a-vis Iraq's decision to recognize Kuwait, efforts to negate the outcome of Rolf Ekeus' last report, and the strong opposition toward Russia's efforts to dispel war and confrontation.

It is believed that the National Security Council, which competes with the U.S. State Department in making foreign policy decisions, is responsible for these stands and statements. It is also this Council that is trying to convince the Iraqi people that as long as Saddam Husayn remains Iraq's president, the Iraqi people will continue to be miserable and they and their patient nation will continue to suffer from the imposition of economic sanctions.

It is also observed that Madeleine Albright, because she is a part of the American administration, represents the American President rather than the Secretary of State Warren Christopher in the United Nations; she is therefore always cooperating with the National Security Council. President Clinton had appointed her as a member of the Cabinet; therefore, much of what is contained in her statements and talks is in accordance with the views of the White House rather than those of the State Department. At the same time, Albright has been rigid in her stand, has lately alleged that palaces have been built in Iraq -reinforcing her allegations with spy and satellite pictures—and that lavish spending was prevalent within the Iraqi leadership circles. These allegations again point at the strong cooperation between the

CIA, which faked this information about Iraq last September, and the National Security Council, which Anthony Lake, Martin Indyk, and President Clinton direct. However, what happens in the White House and the National Security Council is done without the knowledge of the State Department, which tries to depict the situation as more humane than Albright and the White House are depicting it.

Kurdish Democratic Party Official Interviewed

TA1301155795 London Kanal-6 Television in Turkish 1700 GMT 12 Jan 95

[Interview with Dr. Salem 'Abd-al-Rahman, Kurdish Democratic Party member responsible for foreign relations and second-in-command to Barzani, by Kursat Akyol in Salah al-Din; date not given—recorded, in English with superimposed translation into Turkish, translated from the Turkish]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Akyol] What are the reasons for the bloody clashes?

[Al-Rahman] The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, which is under the leadership of Jalal Talabani, attempted the same thing during the first days of last year. That is, they tried to seize the administration through a military coup. When more than 1 thousand of their peshmergas died or were wounded in clashes near Halabjah they stopped the war. They tried the same thing in May and once again recently. However, as long as we are here they will not succeed.

PUK Official: Dialogue Favored To Solve Issues

TA1301160195 London Kanal-6 Television in Turkish 1700 GMT 12 Jan 95

[Interview with (Rasul 'Ali Kosrat), prime minister of the Kurdish administration in northern Iraq and PUK second-in-command under Jalal Talabani, by Kursat Akyol in Irbil; date not given—recorded, (Kosrat's) remarks in Kurdish and Akyol's remarks in English with superimposed translation into Turkish; translated from the Turkish]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Akyol] What are the reasons for the bloody clashes? What are your views on the Kurdish Democratic Party [KDP] claims that your government is confiscating their income through taxes.

[(Kosrat)] This is not right. The money is not under the control of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK]. Kurdistan's only income comes from taxes obtained from trucks carrying fuel oil from Turkey. It is the KDP which has the money since the border is under their supervision. The money we receive is under the control of the central bank and all the salaries we receive come from there, both the money paid to the unemployed in Kurdistan and Barzani's expenditures.

[Akyol] Are these the last clashes?

[(Kosrat)] I hope so. We are in favor of solving issues by dialogue. However, I do not know what will happen in case there is a recurrence of the same incidents.

[Akyol] More than 500 persons have died in clashes over the past 10-days in Irbil and the surrounding region. The clashes are over for the time being on account of the cease fire signed by the rival sides. Life is slowly returning to normal but the tenseness and distrust between the rival Kurdish groups still continue.

Fighting Said To Flare Again Between KDP, PUK

KDP Expected To Run Over Irbil

NC1401150195 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1235 GMT 14 Jan 95

[Place-names as transliterated]

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 14 Jan (MENA)—According to reports from the self-rule area in north Iraq this morning, fighting has flared up again and fierce battles are raging between gunmen of the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP], led by Mas'ud Barzani, and of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, led by Jalal Talabani, after a lull of a few days.

The Voice of the Iraqi Kurdistan, mouthpiece of the KDP, monitored in Baghdad, said that Barzani's gunmen have seized the strategic axis of (Kastaran) outside Irbil in the direction of (Kuysing). The radio said that pitched battles are currently raging on the axes of Suran, Banjwin, Raniyah, and the (Durrah) castle with Talabani's gunmen. The radio said that the Barzani forces will run over the city of Irbil in the next few hours. There are no reports as yet about the casualties resulting from the new round of fighting although it is believed they are high in view of the ferocious fighting.

KDP Forces Recapture Township Near Irbil

LD1501150995 Tehran IRNA in English 1448 GMT 15 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sanandaj, Kordestan Prov., Jan. 15, IRNA—A spokesman for the Islamic Movement Party in Iraqi Kurdistan announced here Saturday [14 January] that forces of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) recaptured "Kas Nazan" township from the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK).

The spokesman said that after taking back the township located 10 km from Erbil and holding a grip on Kas Nazan-Irbil road, the KDP forces were fortifying their positions.

The city of Erbil, the capital of the self-proclaimed government of Iraqi Kurdistan had been seized by PUK guerrillas in recent clashes between the two major arch rivals.

PUK Declares War on Rival Groups

LD1601125695 Tehran IRNA in English 1201 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mahabad, Kordestan Prov., Jan. 16, IRNA—Leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan Jalal Talabani in a message to the people of northern Iraq Sunday [15 January] declared war on all rival Kurdish groups, a source close to the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) said.

The source added that Talabani had proposed a few days ago that the leaders of rival Kurdish groups, PUK and KDP, resume negotiations but his proposal was rejected by KDP leader Massud Barzani.

Barzani said that because of PUK's failure to comply with previous cease-fire agreements reached between the two belligerent groups, the KDP forces will continue their fighting until the annihilation of the PUK.

Meanwhile, Shaykh Adham Barzani, leader of Kurdish Revolutionary Hizbollah, has ordered the forces under his command to engage in the war in support of KDP.

On Monday [16 January], sources close to KDP reported bloody skirmishes between rival Kurdish groups in Irbil. According to press reports, Talabani's forces are shelling civilian quarters of Irbil with their heavy weapons.

New clashes in northern Iraq have reportedly claimed 50 lives.

Talabani Spokesman Rules Out Dialogue With Baghdad

MM1901112695 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Jan 95 p4

[Report by 'Adnan Husayn: "Kurdish Sources Rule Out Acceptance by Barzani or Talabani; Baghdad Urges Kurds To Resume Dialogue With It"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London—In a step significant in its timing, the Iraqi Government yesterday offered to resume the dialogue with the Kurdish parties whose two biggest armed militias have been fighting one another in a struggle for power and influence. [passage omitted]

In a telephone statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday, independent Kurdish sources in Irbil said they did not expect the two warring parties to respond to the government's invitation. They added that any party "that goes to the government would lose much of its popular and political support and would appear to be the cause of the current fighting and to be involved in a government conspiracy." The sources said that the people's mood in Iraqi Kurdistan "tends to favor an end to the fighting and the security and living crisis the Kurdish leadership has inflicted on its people, but the situation has not yet reached the point of accepting the return of the Iraqi Army and security and intelligence organs as the price to pay." They added, however, that "continuation of the infighting might force people to consider even the worst solutions."

The sources expected some kind of attrition war between Barzani's militia and Talabani's militia which seized full control of Irbil two days ago, "and if such a war did occur and did continue for a long time, it might force one of the two parties to negotiate and reach agreement with the (Iraqi) Government."

In London, Talabani's representative ruled out any possibility of dialogue between his party and the current Iraqi Government. In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Dr. Latif Rashid said that "the Kurdish problem in Iraq can only be solved in democratic conditions promoted by a pluralist government. We have had bitter experiences with successive dictatorships in Baghdad. The Kurdish people do not trust any invitations or promises by Saddam Husayn's government." He saw the current fighting in Iraqi Kurdistan as "one of the results of the policies pursued by that government for a long time."

Asked if he expected any Kurdish party to respond to the government's call for the resumption of negotiations, Dr. Rashid said that "it would be difficult for anyone to do that because he would be isolated." At the level of the Iraqi opposition, Muhammad Bahr-al-'Ulum, member of the Presidential Council of the Iraqi National Congress [INC], described the government's call as "a dangerous attempt by the government to exploit this opportunity to destroy the Kurdish experiment and threaten the hopes of the Iraqi opposition which has taken the liberated region (Kurdistan) as a starting point for toppling the dictatorship."

In an urgent appeal issued in London yesterday, Bahr-al-'Ulum accused the Iraqi Government of exploiting "the current abnormal situation in Kurdistan which is these days witnessing some terrible deterioration and continuous destruction, with the two (warring) parties failing to respond to the sincere appeals made by the Iraqi opposition parties for an end to the tragic situation and to the language of war and acceptance of the language of peace." [passage omitted]

Economic Hardship in North Increases Fighting Among Kurds

NC1801064895 Paris AFP in English 0005 GMT 18 Jan 95

[By Habib Trabelsi]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Jan 18 (AFP)—Bitter fighting between rival Kurds in northern Iraq has been fuelled by severe economic hardship, long-standing internal differences and regional hostility to an independent Kurdish state.

Baghdad on Monday [16 January] offered to mediate between the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) and the

Patriotic Union for Kurdistan (PUK) to end clashes for control of Arbil, the main town in the Kurdish-held region. It was the first such offer for three years.

The PUK said 55 people had died in bloodshed at the weekend and about 100 had been wounded. A previous round of fighting which erupted December 24 killed between 100 and 500 people, Kurdish sources said.

Baghdad's offer was immediately rejected by the KDP led by Mas'ud Barzani.

The KDP has vied for power in northern Iraq with Jalal Talabani's PUK since the Kurds seized control of the region in an uprising following the January-February 1991 Gulf War, when more than a million of them fled Iraqi government repression.

But the rival groups have argued fiercely over what position to adopt towards Baghdad.

Long-standing negotiations between Baghdad and the Kurds on extending autonomy for northern Iraq collapsed three years ago, before the Kurds elected their own parliament and formed a PUK-KDP government in May 1992.

But the government has never been recognised, remaining isolated internationally and making it impossible under international law to establish diplomatic and trade links with neighbouring countries.

The situation is exacerbated by the economic hardships in a region dealt a double blow by the UN sanctions imposed on Iraq and Baghdad's own embargo on Iraqi Kurdistan.

The region's isolation has left it totally dependent on international aid, and the help of a US-led air force which monitors the area from a base in Turkey.

Barzani has insisted on striking a balance between "maintaining the integrity of the Kurdish territory and the national sovereignty of Iraq."

But Talabani has taken a tougher stance, arguing against any negotiations with the government of President Saddam Husayn, which he wants to see fall.

He has said he will no longer negotiate with Saddam, and has never sought to hide his concern over "interference" from neighbouring Syria, Turkey and Iran, which have all stressed their determination to preserve Iraq's territorial integrity.

The three countries, which all have Kurdish populations of their own, are strongly opposed to the idea of an independent Kurdish state, fearing it could lead to unrest within their own borders.

Ankara, which has been battling against Kurdish rebels since 1984 in southeastern Turkey, has warned Iraqi Kurdish groups against collaborating with the "terrorist separatists" of the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK).

Baghdad says the autonomy granted to the Iraqi Kurds in three provinces in 1970 fulfilled their aspirations. But talks to make the agreement a reality stumbled over differences concerning the borders of the autonomous zone.

The Kurds claim 75,000 square kilometres (30,000 sq. miles), while Baghdad wants to squeeze them into a smaller area, cut down by 25,000 (10,000 sq. miles) to 30,000 square kilometres (12,000 sq. miles), and taking out of their control the main oil area of Karkuk.

Many observers believe the rival factions now have only two choices—to continue fighting among themselves or reopen talks with Baghdad.

Opposition Reportedly Attack MKO Headquarters

LD1801121895 Tehran IRNA in English 1030 GMT 18 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan. 18, IRNA—The terrorist Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) sustained casualties and losses when their headquarters in central Baghdad was attacked by Iraqi oppositions late last week. Voice of Revolutionary Iraq, the radio of Iraqi oppositions, Tuesday [17 January] night announced that the MKO headquarters at al-Andalus Square in Baghdad was attacked by the oppositions. The attack, it added, was part of the armed operations of the Iraqi revolutionaries against the Baghdad regime and its mercenaries.

Quoting eye-witnesses, the radio reported that the attack on the establishment was carried out from inside two automobiles. No report has yet been received on the number of casualties the MKO sustained, said the radio. However, quoting its own sources the radio said that Iraqi agents immediately rushed to the scene of the icindet.

The MKO started its cooperation with the Iraqi Army in 1983 and by forming joint death squads with the Ba'thist forces massacred thousands of Iraqi Muslims and Kurds who had revolted against the Baghdad regime in north and south of the country after the Persian Gulf war. The MKO terrorists were officially hired by the Iraqi Army and intelligence service as of October 5, 1994.

Opposition Leader Reports Explosion in Arbil Area

LD1601174595 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1634 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, 16 Jan—An Iraqi opposition movement has called on the international community to help the Iraqi people get rid of the ruling regime to achieve security and stability in the region.

Mr. Ja'far Muhammad, representative of the Islamic Action Organization in Syria, in a statement distributed here today, has said: "The Iraqi opposition forces as a whole have to be engaged in a serious discussion to find an acceptable formula to form a transitional government on the territory of the homeland so as to be a guarantee for stability and security and a political solution for the future of Iraq."

He stressed that "the organization is determined to go ahead regardless of the sacrifices to bring down the Baghdad regime and establish a pluralist parliamentary regime." Mr. Ja'far called "on the fighters in Kurdistan to direct their rifles toward the common enemy, Saddam and his regime."

He added: "We are astonished at the silence of the international community over the suffering of the Iraqi people and its hesitation to help them get rid of that regime, to achieve security and stability in the region, and bring Iraq back into the folds of the Arab and Islamic nation."

He also said: "The Iraqi regime planted an explosive device at the students' affairs bureau of the Islamic Action Organization in the Arbil area, causing material damage and injuring a number of students."

Foreign Ministry: No Demand Received for Dirani Release

TA1901053595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 19 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] We open with a report from Turkey, where a group calling itself the Lebanon Freedom Fighters announced it is holding a U.S. Air Force officer and his son and will kill them unless Israel frees Mustafa Dirani, the terrorist leader captured in Lebanon last May.

The Turkish news agency reported that a caller who claimed to be phoning from abroad said his group was holding Lieutenant Colonel Mike Couillard and his 10-year-old son Matthew. The two have been missing since Sunday, while on a day trip to Kartalkaya, a ski resort in western Turkey. The man said they would be killed within 48 hours, unless Dirani—the leader of the Faithful Resistance Organization allied with Hizballah—was freed.

Qol Yisra'el received a similar call last night. Answering the phone was telephone operator Hadas Matas, who told us what the man said.

[Begin recording] [Matas] He said: Are you speaking English? Do you speak English? I am calling from Turkey. We'll kill an officer, we want Dirani.

[Unidentified correspondent] And how long did this conversation last?

[Matas] A few seconds, I don't know.

[Correspondent] And then he put the phone down?

[Matas] Yes.

[Correspondent] What accent did this man have?

[Matas] I don't know. It wasn't Hebrew and it wasn't Arabic, but he didn't know English very well.

[Correspondent] Do you think he was calling from Turkey?

[Matas] I don't know whether it was from Israel, but it was very far.

[Correspondent] So, possibly from Turkey?

[Matas] Possibly. [end recording]

The Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem says Israel has received no demands from the alleged kidnappers. U.S. authorities in Ankara suggested the calls were a hoax, and said the search for the missing pair would continue today.

Peres Asserts No Basis for Term 'Greater Jerusalem'

TA1801190595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 18 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says there is no basis for the term Greater Jerusalem. Jerusalem is one city, the borders of which are determined by law. Mr. Peres said this in reaction to the publication of the government's decision from two years ago which indicates that the ministers reached a decision to carry out construction work on Giv'at Ze'ev, Har Hadar, Giv'on Hahadasha, the 'Etzyon Bloc, Betar, Efrata, and Ma'ale Adumim.

The mayor of Efrata today brought the government decision to the knowledge of Knesset members and ministers, who were caught by surprise. Shim'on Peres said that if necessary, the government will amend the decision. Peres believes that when the decision was made in January 1993 it constituted an economic rather than a political issue.

The Likud, Tzomet, and the National Religious Party submitted a no-confidence motion against the government on the issue of the controversy over greater Jerusalem.

Peres Reacts to Likud Criticism Over Jerusalem Issue

TA1901091995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 19 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said that the government has violated no decisions made with regard to Jerusalem. Reacting to the Likud's criticism, Peres retorted by asking why the Likud government had not annexed the areas abutting Jerusalem. Peres was speaking to Qol Yisra'el.

The foreign minister also commented on the situation within the Labor Party. Mr. Peres called for a review of the system of primaries which played up individual Knesset members at the expense of the party. [passage omitted]

Tzomet leader Refa'el Eytan informed Qol Yisra'el that Rabin had personally told him that the boundaries of Greater Jerusalem stretched from the 'Etzyon Bloc to Ma'ale Adumim.

In an interview to Qol Yisra'el, Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu said that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin had changed his policy regarding Jerusalem overnight and was now giving up the heart of the Jewish people. The government, Netanyahu said, had backtracked on its decision of two years ago to develop the Jerusalem area. Any city, the Likud chairman said, must expand naturally in conjunction with its suburbs. The government's shift in policy was very worrisome, he said, not only because it violated commitments, but also because it would seriously harm the capital. The government, Netanyahu said, views Jerusalem as just another settlement that can be dried up.

Netanyahu dismissed reports that David Levi intends to establish a list that would run in the next Knesset elections on an ethnic platform. The Likud chairman asserted that these reports were not serious and expressed his confidence that David Levi would stay within the framework of the Likud.

Olmert, Minister Sne View Peres Jerusalem Remarks

TA1901073395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 19 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Health Minister Efrayim Sne says that Israel would be compromising its position in the struggle over Jerusalem if it spread its efforts dozens of kilometers from the capital. Jerusalem itself should be strengthened, the health minister told Qol Yisra'el this morning, without various distant additional appendages. As for the government's decision two years ago to grant priority to investments in settlements around Jerusalem such as Ma'ale Adumim, Efrata, and Betar, Health Minister Sne said that the political reality has changed and negotiations are now being held with the Palestinians. New decisions were called for, he asserted.

Reacting to Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' remarks that the concept of Greater Jerusalem is merely a literary term, Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert said that the foreign minister should muster the courage to publicly state his intention to withdraw to the 1967 borders in Jerusalem as well. Olmert said that he supported the expansion of Jerusalem in all directions; however, experts have decided that the city's natural growth is eastwards.

The leaders of five settlements around Jerusalem yesterday formed a joint action committee in Ma'ale Adumim and announced that for the time being, they were not interested in a collective struggle alongside the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. Sha'ul Mizrahi, the chairman of the Giv'at Ze'ev Council told our correspondent Gil Litman that although he respected the settlers' struggle, the situation of the settlements around Jerusalem was different than that of remote settlements. Several Labor Party activists in Ma'ale Adumim said that if the government decided to impose a total freeze on construction, they would turn in their party membership cards.

It has also been revealed that approximately two months ago a team of experts submitted a survey report on Jerusalem's development to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer which recommended expanding the city in the direction of the 'Etzyon Bloc and Betar in the south and Giv'at Ze'ev in the north. Shmaryahu Kohen, the former director of the Jerusalem District at the Construction and Housing Ministry and one of the experts who prepared the survey, told our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky that he and his colleagues were appointed through a Likud government tender and carried out a professional job which was free of any political considerations. The report's findings were submitted to the government approximately two months ago.

Rabin Tells Meretz: Building Freeze in Territories

TA1801173495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 18 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A freeze on construction is in force in the territories, Prime Minister Rabin has told his Meretz cabinet colleagues. He said that any deviation from the freeze can only be with government approval. The fences of the settlements must be installed close to the houses and not according to a settlement's master plans, he added. For more on what Rabin told the Meretz ministers, No'omi Segal spoke to Immigrant Absorption Minister Ya'ir Tzaban.

[Begin recording] [Tzaban] There will be a full freeze of the government activities and government investments in the infrastructure in the occupied territories in the West Bank, in Judaea and Samaria. Any kind of confiscation of land will be devoted to minimum necessary needs for the bypass of the roads in very, very exact and concrete places where it is necessary in order to enable the withdrawal of the army from the cities of the Arabs there and to enable the process of elections there.

What is no less important, is that a representative of Meretz will be in the team that will take control about all the activities in this field, in Judaea and Samaria, in the field of the settlements in order to prevent any surprise and to be sure that we know everything what is done in these occupied territories.

[Segal] Does this include private building initiatives?

[Tzaban] There will be a special discussion and a special examination of the issue of private building in the occupied territories.

[Segal] What about the issue of Greater Jerusalem and the dispute over whether or not such a thing exists?

[Tzaban] The prime minister already clarified very, very clearly that there is no such a concept. There is Jerusalem with its municipal borders according to the law that was adopted in 1967. Other settlements and cities will be discussed in the government—their fate, their future, and the building activities in these areas.

What I want to say is that I am sure that after Sunday there will be a fundamental and radical change in the situation and in the policies of the government there, and in the concrete implementation of governmental decisions in these areas. [end recording]

'Enormous' Settlement Drive Planned for 1995

TA1801170995 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (24 SHA'OT supplement) in Hebrew 18 Jan 95 pp 1, 2

["Exclusive" report by 'Ofer Petersburg]

[FBIS Translated Text] At the cabinet meeting next Sunday [22 January], the construction and housing minister is expected to deliver a "secret" report summarizing his ministry's activities beyond the Green Line, which have been pursued despite the freeze on construction in the territories.

Yet the government report, details of which are herewith revealed for the first time, does not include all the construction carried out both secretly or openly beyond the Green Line even at this time. For Rabin's and his ministers' information: The real picture includes construction and construction plans on private land, most of which is not mentioned in the Construction and Housing Ministry's program.

Ben-Eli'ezer's report notes a total investment of about 16 million shekels in the completion of infrastructure in existing settlements established during the Likud era, including public facilities, such as clinics, schools, synagogues, gyms, and community centers.

Yet this is not all. YEDI'OT AHARONOT has learned of a secret fund established by Judaea and Samaria settlers, who have been raising funds in Israel and overseas for public facilities and infrastructure, the development of which was delayed by the government after its rise to power. Funds are raised in the United States, Europe, and Israel. An amazing finding: Millions of shekels were donated in the past few months just by pro-settlement Israelis. Apparently, the present government is totally oblivious to the existence of this fund.

It has been further learned that there is another development plan, which was commissioned by the prime minister's bureau and parts of which are in progress. The plan was dubbed "maximum" and "minimum" to reflect its flexible nature: It will be implemented in accordance with the developments in the negotiations with the Palestinian Authority. The plan was jointly drafted by the Defense Ministry, the Civil Administration, and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]. Sources who participated in its drafting say the plan is designed to increase the settlements' population, in a bid to establish facts on the ground, particularly in the Greater Jerusalem area.

And indeed, the Construction and Housing Ministry's program for areas beyond the Green Line reveals a plan to double the resources in vital strategic districts, especially around Jerusalem. An enormous construction drive will be undertaken in three key settlements: Ma'ale Adumim, Giv'at Ze'ev, and ultra-Orthodox Betar. In addition, thousands of apartments will be built in the divide- line neighborhoods of Jerusalem beyond the Green Line.

The program provides one surprise—a settlement built on private land—unlike other government-funded settlements, which are situated on state land: Qiryat Sefer, situated beyond the Green Line and designated entirely for ultra-Orthodox settlers. It will consist of 400 housing units. The program makes no mention of numerous other settlements built on private land, such as Oranit, Sha'arey Tiqva, Giv'at Ehud, and others, each of which is planned to have hundreds of new housing units new year.

The Construction and Housing Ministry has an answer to the question as to why the ultra-Orthodox community has been given preferential treatment. A decision to finance 50 percent of the settlement's development costs from government budgets was made at a recent meeting between Rabin, Shohat, and Ben-Eli'ezer. Every settlement dreams of being on the receiving end of such generosity, and yet only the ultra-Orthodox have received it. Why? Because. Members of the social lobby, who toured the new city of Modi'in a week ago, were furious. Lobby chairman, Knesset Member Rafi Elul, said it was a scandal that a three-room apartment in Modi'in should cost $130,000, while a similar apartment costs only $70-80,000 in the neighboring Qiryat Sefer. But that is another story.

The development drive in the territories, undertaken over the past two years, is no secret. In 1994, the Construction and Housing Ministry allocated 140 million shekels for infrastructure and construction in settlements beyond the Green Line, and the policy continues in 1995 with an allocation of 90 million shekels. A comparison with 1993 is difficult, because there is no accurate data on development in that year, when the government's policy on the territories was not yet firmly established.

The number of housing units, which Ben-Eli'ezer himself has mentioned on several occasions, is vast: 30,000 housing units are due to be built in the next five years in the territories, including Greater Jerusalem. This plan refers to neighborhoods which were beyond the Green Line prior to 1967, but which have been annexed to Jerusalem. The plan includes 5,000 apartments in Har Homa, which the High Court has recently approved following a dispute with Arab land owners, as well as thousands of additional apartments in neighborhoods such as Pisgat Ze'ev, Neve Ya'aqov, Mey Neftoah, and others.

Three settlements featuring prominently in the program are Ma'ale Adumim (a total addition of 2,280 housing units); Betar (1,466 units); Giv'at Ze'ev (1,300 units); and Qiryat Sefer (400 units) [sentence as published]. Fifty apartments will be built with government funding in Jordan Rift Valley settlements. A total of over 7,000 housing units are scheduled to be built beyond the Green Line this year. Some of these houses will be built on private land, which is not even included in the government program, although the actual construction is carried out by settlers and private entrepreneurs. The government is trying not to interfere.

The settlement of Efrata is part of this activity, despite the dispute. A new plan speaks of 750 housing units to be built in Efrata, including the 216 units in current planning. The first stage, which was supposed to be implemented on Hatamar Hill, was moved to Hazayit Hill.

When the houses on the adjacent hill are completed, the construction will move to a more remote hill, in accordance with the plan. The settlement will grow by a total of some 6,000 families, or in other words, double its size.

This is the first publication of the settlers' comprehensive plan for the expansion of existing settlements—a far more detailed plan than the one presented by Meretz members two days ago—which is based on construction by entrepreneurs who are already building or preparing to build in the settlements next year. Some of the plans are under way. Most of the construction consists of cottages. "The Sheves plan, which spoke of high-rise buildings in areas of high demand, has generated demand in settlements close to the Green Line; consequently, prices soared in recent months," a major building contractor says.

The following is planned to be built along the Trans-Samaria Highway: 200 sloped housing units (Stage B) in Oranit, whose fence facing Kafr Qasim has already been breached to allow the building of a country club and a community center; 32 cottages in Sha'arey Tiqva, where prices are again as high as they were two years ago; 80 housing units in Elqana; in 'Imanu'el, an attempt is being made to renovate and reinhabit 100 empty apartments built during the previous government's term.

Last year, a 236-unit luxury neighborhood was built very secretly in Qedumim. Some 300 more are planned for this year; nearby Yaqir is planning to build 30 housing units; 25 will be built in Shavey Shomron, and 70 in Ginot Shomron; in 'Ofarim, 400 empty apartments built by Ashdar are standing empty. Negotiations on their purchase and repopulation are under way right now.

In 'Anatot between Ma'ale Adumim and Giv'at Ze'ev, plans speak of 30-40 new units, and there is land for 800 more; in El'azar, the home of Knesset Member Yig'al Bibi, just next to Efrata, 50 more units are planned; 70 are planned in 'Aley Zahav (on the Neve Tzuf-Derekh Alon road); a private entrepreneur is conducting a feasibility study for the construction of 80 cottages near Alon Shvut; a 75-unit neighborhood is under construction in Psagot.

The plan envisages an addition of 30 apartments in each Har Hevron settlement, such as Bet Hagay, Yatir, and 'Otni'el.

The biggest expansion will take place in the settlement of Nahli'el, where houses will be built on 2,100 dunams. The reason for this is the extensive network of roads branching off from this location. Construction on more than 1,000 dunams will be added in Dolev; 230 dunams (including industry) in Telem; over 200 dunams in Adora; over 280 dunams in 'Otni'el; over 400 dunams in Shim'a.

The inspiration to continue investing in the settlements comes from the government. Rabin has recently approved budgets for four bypass roads, which allow easy and safe access to the settlements: the Ramallah bypass road, the Tulkarm bypass road, the Hebron-Bet Hagay bypass road, and the Psagot-Bet El bypass road.

The roads are a major inducement, in terms of security, for these settlements. Some of the planned roads and overpasses are in the process of construction: the Qiryat Arba-Pney Haver road; the Susya-Shim'a road; the road from 'Otni'el to the Green Line; the Shim'a-Tene-Eshkolot road; the Ma'ale Adumim bypass road; the Ma'ale Adumim overpass (a 15-million-shekel investment); the road that will bypass Ramallah from the east and link 'Ofra with Adam (via Psagot); the road that will link Halamish with 'Ofra via 'Atarot; the road that will bypass Ramallah from the west and lead from Halamish, Nahli'el, and Dolev to Qalandiyah and Giv'at Ze'ev.

"Either way, all the facts indicate that there is a housing shortage in most settlements," says Avi Citernboim, director general of the Real Estate Union.

Police Leader on Cooperation With Palestinian Force

TA1901113095 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 19 Jan 95 p 2

[Report by Bill Hutman and Liat Collins]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Police Inspector-General Asaf Hefetz yesterday called for improved cooperation between the Palestinian and Israeli police forces.

"There may have been some worsening (of relations) recently," Hefetz, reviewing Border Police operations in Gaza, said. But he cautioned that it would be "wrong to conclude that relations had totally broken down."

His comments came after leaks or reports by senior army and General Security Service officers on problems between the Palestinian and Israeli security forces to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee meeting.

The problems "are being taken care of," Hefetz told reporters in Gaza. "Both sides are interested in maintaining good relations.... If we cannot cooperate, it will hurt both sides."

Border Police and police officers man the joint patrols with Palestinian police officers in Gaza and Jericho. The Knesset committee was told that Israeli policemen no longer trust their Palestinian counterparts.

Hefetz, meanwhile, said the electronic security fence being built around Gaza has "cut the number of incursions to a minimum. But there are places where there is still no fence and in some places, even with a fence, there are still problems."

Police Minister Moshe Shahal also said "much is being done" to improve relations.

"Until now, (the joint patrols) have operated in an acceptable manner," Shahal said during a tour of Jerusalem's Mahane Yehuda market. "There has been some falling off recently," which is being dealt with, he added.

However, MK [Knesset Member] Binyamin Begin (Likud) claimed the security situation in Gaza is out of control.

Huge numbers of armed Palestinian policemen have entered Gaza and Jericho without their names being submitted to the government, and there is no list of their weapons' serial numbers, he said. "The agreement with the PLO is collapsing before our eyes," he added.

On Monday, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin admitted there is no record for thousands of Palestinian Police officers.

In the Oslo Accords, the Palestinians were granted the right to establish a 9,000-member police force. The names of 5,800 were approved by Israel, but the names of the others were not submitted.

Begin said that, according to the PLO itself, there are now 11,000-13,000 Palestinian policemen. "We do not even know who or where these thousands of armed Palestinians are," he said.

He refused to discuss the visit by a subcommittee to Gaza last week, but did not deny statements reportedly aired at its meeting.

According to subcommittee members, OC Southern Command Maj.-Gen. Sha'ul Mofaz said the Palestinian Police is not coping with attacks against Israel, and OC Gaza Brig.-Gen. Doron Almog reportedly said: "Intelligence gathering is more difficult than in the past, therefore it is harder to catch wanted terrorists."

According to subcommittee member Moshe Peled, Almog said: "The Palestinian policemen drink coffee and play backgammon instead of acting against the terrorists."

Jon Immanuel adds:

Marwan Kanafani, spokesman for Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, dismissed Almog's allegations. "Why doesn't he pay more attention to his duties and let our officers take care of theirs?" he asked.

Intelligence General, Rabin on Syria, Lebanon

TA1801154695 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 18 Jan 95 p A6

[Report by Gid'on Alon and Tzvi Zrahya]

[FBIS Translated Text] Brigadier General Ya'aqov 'Amidror, head of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Intelligence Branch Research Department, believes that Syria will express a willingness to demilitarize territories as part of the security arrangements introduced in the framework of the peace agreement with Israel.

Appearing before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday, Gen. 'Amidror said he believes that Syria's President Hafiz al-Asad is preparing his nation for the possibility that tough decisions regarding Israel will be made.

Likud Knesset Member [MK] Binyamin Netanyahu: "What does this mean?"

Gen. 'Amidror: "For al-Asad, deciding to sign a peace agreement with Israel for a certain price, is making a tough decision. To see an Israeli flag hoisted in Damascus is a tough decision for him."

MK Netanyahu: "Has al-Asad commented on demilitarization or about downsizing his army?"

Gen. 'Amidror: "In its explanations, Syria claims that after Israel's full withdrawal, the security conditions must be on par, equal, and balanced on both sides of the border. I regard this to be more than just a Syrian agreement for demilitarization on both sides of the border. The Syrians realize that demilitarization will be part of the security arrangements.

"No public reference has been made regarding the downsizing of the Syria Army. Whatever was attained in security arrangements with Egypt would be easy to attain with Syria because it regards precedents as very important. This is why the Syrians do not like the idea of leasing land, as Jordan signed with us," 'Amidror said.

In the discussion, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that the Syrians still insist that negotiations with Israel be held in Washington, between the Israeli and Syrian ambassadors, with Americans being present. He noted that he believes the meeting between the chiefs of staff to constitute a shift, and that the fact that it was held is important in itself. According to him, the two chiefs of staff discussed security arrangements, though they were not authorized to discuss timetables for withdrawal or determine the permanent borderline.

Rabin added that he does not know of any Syrian willingness to hold bilateral meetings without American involvement and confirmed that "we had offered such meetings in various shapes, but did not succeed. It may be clear to the Syrians that the two parties should perhaps discuss security issues, but they are not willing to go into the issues," Rabin said.

Referring to Hizballah terror attacks from Lebanon, Rabin said that Syria supports and legitimizes Hizballah, recognizing the Lebanese right to fight any foreign force stationed on their land. According to him, the path through which Hizballah receives arms, funds, and men from Iran goes through Damascus.

"Today, Palestinians are more involved in terror activities in south Lebanon. They are more coordinated with Hizballah, including providing them with operational assistance. As a rule, all terror activity from south Lebanon is coordinated with or controlled by Hizballah," Rabin said.

Rabin stressed that if the SLA [South Lebanese Army] ceased to exist, "we would have to reinforce the IDF units in south Lebanon. We must find the balance between protecting the residents of our northern settlements, and our commitments to the residents of south Lebanon and the SLA."

Likud MK Shilansky: "Who are we talking to?"

Rabin: "There is no signed agreement, only understandings between us and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, and between him and the Syrians. Whenever the understandings are violated, our address is the Americans. I admit that there are violations, but we must remember that things are not clear-cut and they do not retaliate with katyushas whenever the SLA or the IDF shoot. This is a very fragile reality."

Rabin made it clear that "if Hizballah is not disarmed, we will not move toward agreements with Syria and Lebanon. We will not agree to conduct negotiations on a peace treaty with Lebanon before the Lebanese Government sends its army to south Lebanon, and before the army proves that it can disarm Hizballah and prevent terror attacks for six months."

At the same time, Rabin clarified that Lebanon will not take a single step without Syria's approval.

During the committee meeting, the prime minister received the initial details of the air accident in which Captain Dan Overest, a 22-year-old pilot from Ashdod, was killed. Rabin briefed the committee members.

Referring to a demand by bereaved parents whose sons were killed in training accidents, Rabin said that he steadfastly opposes handing over the investigations of army training accidents to an external body. The prime minister stressed that a distinction must be drawn between operational accidents and other training accidents, such as firearm accidents.

Peres on Improved Ties With Egypt Over Past Year

TA1801172695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 18 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Egyptian President Mubarak, who is visiting Paris, says there is a deterioration both in the peace process and in Israeli-Egyptian relations.

Speaking at the Knesset, Foreign Minister Peres said that Israeli-Egyptian relations have greatly improved over the last year.

After his meeting with French President Mitterrand, President Mubarak told our correspondent in Paris Gid'on Kouts he hopes that in the wake of his phone talk with President Weizman the tense situation between Jerusalem and Cairo will calm down, but added that this depends on Israel.

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said in the Knesset that over the last year there was a great improvement in Israel's relations with Egypt; the political dialogue was intensified and economic relations picked up after Cairo gave Egyptian businessmen the go ahead to forge ties with Israel. The Knesset plenum will hold a discussion on this issue at a future date.

Says Relations 'Cannot Be Free of Clouds'

TA1901120295 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 19 Jan 95 p A6

[Report by Gid'on Alon and Tzvi Zerahya]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] "Relations between Israel and Egypt cannot be free of clouds and foul weather," Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres stated in the Knesset yesterday, replying to five motions on the agenda concerning the crisis in relations between the two countries. Peres said that along with the improvement in bilateral relations over the past year, there were also arguments and disagreements. According to him, it is not always possible to ascertain the motives and causes of the disagreements.

Peres cited two issues on which Israel and Egypt disagree:

—The creation of a nuclear-free Middle East: According to the foreign minister, this is a fleeting argument seeing that Israel also wants to arrive at a Middle East free of nuclear weapons and mutual destruction. He stressed that Israel believes the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) has no real value for countries that do not speak the truth and advocate the annihilation of nations. "Hitler had no nuclear weapons either. So what?"

According to Peres, Israel has no reason to allay the fears of a country such as Iran, which continues to build up its army, cheat, and declare that it wants to destroy the Jewish people in the State of Israel. "How much is the NPT worth if the Iranians and the Iraqis sign it—did they not cheat? Did they not try to create a nuclear threat clandestinely? That is why we are prepared to discuss with Egypt ways to attain a Middle East free of weapons of mass destruction."

—The economy: Peres said that there are reservations in Egypt, particularly among its intellectuals, about developing normal ties with Israel in the economic sphere. According to him, Israel does not want to direct or head the economy of the Middle East. "I told the Egyptian president in our recent meeting, 'If you do not want us to take part in the development of the Middle East, tell us and we will be out of here in five minutes.' We have no plans to dominate another nation. The Israeli economy is not dependent on the poverty of the Middle East. Almost all our exports are to countries outside the Middle East."

Concluding his remarks, the foreign minister said that Israeli-Egyptian relations are the cornerstone of Israel's Middle East policy, and there can be no substitute for the peace agreement with Egypt since Israel does not question its centrality in the region. He called on the two peoples to stand up to anybody trying to hurt relations between the two countries, which are "a bright beacon in the history of the region." [passage omitted]

Science, Culture, Education Talks Held With Jordan

TA1801181995 Jerusalem Government Press Office in English 18 Jan 95

["Communicated by Foreign Ministry spokesman"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] On Tuesday, 17.1.95, the third meeting of the Jordanian-Israeli sub-committee in the areas of science, culture, education was held.

The meetings are held alternatively every two to three weeks in Jordan and Israel. Their objective is to draft an agreement on culture and science between the two countries, according to Article 10 of the peace agreement between Israel and Jordan. Until now, the two sides have been describing their culture, science and education systems.

At this stage, the talks are concentrating on science and technological education. Yesterday, the committee visited the technological and vocational school in Karmi'el, and discussed the possibilities of cooperation in the fields of science and education.

The talks are being conducted in a good atmosphere and a desire for cooperation that will find expression in an agreement between the two countries and in practical programs in the fields of science, culture and technology.

Rabin Expects Dayan To Quit; Coalition Setbacks

TA1801185995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 18 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Knesset Member [MK] Eli Dayan is refusing to quit his position as chairman of the Labor Knesset faction. Prime Minister Rabin said he expects MK Dayan to resign after he voted against the faction position on the Economic Arrangements Law. Finance Minister Shohat said Dayan cannot continue in his post, and assessed that Dayan will resign voluntarily.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1200 GMT on 18 January adds: "The Knesset today passed the third reading of the Economic Arrangements Law after all the reservations—including those referring to a long school day—were removed. Fifty seven MK's voted in favor of the law, 33 against, and 3 abstained.

["The Knesset took almost two hours to vote on the second reading, with the stormiest part being reserved for the vote over MK Dayan's long school day proposal. Dayan, who voted with the opposition in favor of the reservation, was joined by Labor MK's Avital, Vanunu, and 'Amir Peretz. The coalition nevertheless enjoyed a considerable majority. Immediately after the voting, several Labor MK's signed a petition demanding to oust MK Dayan from the post of Labor and coalition faction chairman."]

The government suffered a series of unprecedented defeats in the Knesset plenum this afternoon. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the government was defeated in votes on five draft bills in their preliminary reading. The draft bills raised by opposition and coalition MK's were passed in the first reading.

The opposition scored a first victory in a vote on Likud MK Moshe Qatzav's draft bill aimed at preventing Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi from serving as 'Arafat's adviser.

The prime minister and the ministers terminated the cabinet meeting and arrived in the Knesset plenum to vote against the proposal, but the opposition carried the vote. Yitzhaq Rabin erupted in anger, calling the Labor MK's idiots. This too did no good, and the coalition MK's failed to attend a series of votes over other draft bills, which consequently passed the first reading with an opposition majority—to the great chagrin of the government representatives.

Senior U.S. Envoy To Check Strength of Rabin's Rule

TA1901114995 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 19 Jan 95 p 2

[Report by Washington correspondent Avino'am Bar-Yosef]

[FBIS Translated Text] A senior U.S. envoy is coming to Israel this weekend to look into anxious reports from the U.S. Embassy in Israel that say that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin "is losing control and credibility." This assessment was formulated by Charge d'Affaires Jim Larocco on the basis of conversations with senior government and Labor Party sources.

MA'ARIV has learned that the envoy is David Pollock, the head of USIA's Near East, South Asia, and Africa Research Department. Among other things, he will conduct independent public opinion surveys to see how Israel's Arabs and settlers will vote in the next elections. One of the issues troubling the Americans is that Israel's Arabs may unite under a single party.

Yesterday Pollock described his visit as "routine." However, MA'ARIV has learned that Pollock, accompanied by his aide Fred Huxley, was scheduled to come to Israel in March, but moved the visit forward in view of the worrisome reports about the condition of the Israeli Government. USIA is a government agency affiliated with the State Department that gathers and disseminates information.

Washington became worried following Larocco's reports about "the Rabin government's imbroglios in the economic area and the difficulties emerging in the political and security spheres." Larocco wrote in his report: "Rabin is subject to daily pressure from Meretz and the left wing, which have renounced all discipline following Hayim Ramon's success in the Histadrut labor federation. At the same time, Labor's hawks are pulling him in the opposite direction, while the religious parties and the settlers are stepping up their demands."

Larocco asserts that, despite the difficulties, Rabin appears to be alert and there are no indications of a deterioration in his physical condition, but notes that one must bear in mind his advanced age. Larocco also points to the continuing rise in Knesset Member Binyamin Netanyahu's popularity.

It has been learned that the most recent public opinion survey in Israel, conducted by the Americans last November, showed that Labor was still leading, but that the gap with the Likud had been narrowed. Some 32 percent of the respondents said they had not yet made up their minds on how they would vote.

Sources in Washington report that apart from the Arab sector and the settlers, Pollock will also look into the chances of Hayim Ramon attracting the vote of frustrated Labor voters and the impact of Ehud Baraq entering politics.

The U.S. envoy will also confer with several Israeli pollsters and public opinion experts, such as Asher Arian, Elihu Katz, Efrayim Ya'ar, Mina Tzemah, and Hanokh Smith, to ascertain the credibility of recent polls indicating a drop in Labor's popularity.

What Are They Worried About? [inset box]

- These are the main issues that worry the United States:
- The government's loss of credibility with the Israeli public.
- Rabin's lack of control over the Labor Party.
- The slowdown in the political process.
- Hayim Ramon's successes.
- Recent polls about the balance of political power in Israel.
- The government's economic imbroglios.
- The continuing rise in the popularity of the Likud and Binyamin Netanyahu.

Israeli 'Concern' Over Cabinet's Arab Moves Noted

JN1801215395 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 18 Jan 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] AL-MAJD has learned that Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti has, during the past few days, had several telephone contacts with some Syrian officials to set a date for his visit to Damascus and to re-launch dialogue with it.

Informed sources told AL-MAJD that al-Kabariti has asked a Lebanese minister, who happens to be his friend and who is close to Damascus, to prepare for the visit which al-Kabariti is willing to make in order to invigorate the frozen Jordanian-Syrian relations.

The sources added that the efforts of al-Kabariti, who enjoys a special status in Damascus, have not yet met with success and that these efforts need to be further intensified to break the ice between Amman and Damascus resulting from the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty.

In Cairo, AL-MAJD correspondent has learned that clearing the atmosphere between Jordan, Syria, and Saudi Arabia was at the center of the meetings held by al-Kabariti and President Husni Mubarak and Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa during al-Kabariti's visit to the Egyptian capital last week.

Arab League sources in Cairo have said the Egyptian officials have shown a readiness to mediate and mend fences. However, they did not expect quick reconciliation initiatives and that, rather, they expected such reconciliation to be achieved within the collective Arab framework and comprehensive Arab solidarity.

In Amman, AL-MAJD can confirm that the first and basic objective of the visit to Amman by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and the rest of the suspicious delegation accompanying him was to brake the Jordanian move toward openness with Arab countries.

AL-MAJD, which alone bears responsibility for the accuracy and validity of its information, also confirms that the new Jordanian cabinet's moves toward Arab states has stirred concern on the part of higher Israeli circles and that these moves are the second indication, after the Alexandria summit, that Arab solidarity will be restored shortly and peace according to the Israeli concept will be stopped.

AL-MAJD can also say that the flexibility on the part of Rabin, which was felt by Jordanian officials, and the similar flexibility felt by Egyptians during the latest visit by Shim'on Peres to Cairo, is nothing but a poisoned decoy aimed at maintaining Arab division so that total Israeli hegemony on the region can be consecrated. [passage omitted]

Official on Lack of Contact Office in Self-Rule Areas

JN1901090795 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 19 Jan 95 p 2

[Article by Ayman al-Safadi]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—Jordan believes it is still premature to open a contact office in the Palestinian self-rule areas because the office is "not a goal in itself" and should be established after the two sides resolve outstanding issues between them, a Foreign Ministry official said Wednesday [18 January].

Director of the Information Department at the Ministry Ahmad Mbeideen told the JORDAN TIMES that "there are many issues that the two sides have to agree on before the office is opened." Resolving these issues, he said, is more important than opening the office.

Mr. Mubayyidin said Jordan does not need to open the office to demonstrate its recognition of and support for the Palestine National Authority (PNA) because the Kingdom's backing of the Palestinians and their rights is "a proven fact" and has been a constant part of its policy.

Mr. Mubayyidin said a framework for Jordanian-Palestinian relations should be drawn before a contact office in the self-rule areas is established, referring to the "many other channels" through which the Palestinians can discuss their ties with the Kingdom.

Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) have reached a number of agreements on economic and other fields of cooperation but the PLO failed to ratify these agreements.

But sources expect "substantial results" to emerge from the talks PNA President Yasir 'Arafat is expected to have in Jordan when he visits the Kingdom later this month.

The visit will be preceded by talks between Jordanian officials and a high-level Palestinian delegation that is expected in Amman early next week.

Palestinian Minister of Education Yasir 'Amr was Wednesday quoted as saying that the Kingdom has been informed of the visit which was decided upon during a meeting of the PNA on Saturday. He said the team will include eight ministers in the PNA.

Mr. 'Arafat has not visited Jordan since he returned to Gaza in July and sources said that the Kingdom had informed him in the past that the visit should materialise only if he is willing to reach substantial and solid agreements on Palestinian-Jordanian relations.

Mr. Mubayyidin said Jordan cannot be compared to European countries which opened contact offices in the self-rule areas to supervise their commercial and economic interests there.

Jordanian-Palestinian relations are not restricted to economic interest and have to be put in a clear framework, he said.

Foreign Minister Meets 'Arafat, Pakistani Counterpart

JN1601153395 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti met with Mr. Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine, in Fes in the Kingdom of Morocco this morning.

During the meeting, views were exchanged on issues of concern to both sides, especially issues that are listed on the agenda of the Jerusalem Committee, whose meetings will open in the city of Ifrane this evening under the chairmanship of His Majesty King Hasan II.

Al-Kabariti explained the Jordanian attitude aimed at unifying Islamic efforts in order to preserve the Arab and Islamic identity of holy Jerusalem and to safeguard it against any tampering or threats, given the fact that it is part of the Arab territories occupied in 1967. He stressed the need for its return as the capital of the state of Palestine.

The two sides stressed the need to maintain the issue of Jerusalem as an element of unification rather than a point of contention or disunity.

The two sides also discussed Jordanian-Palestinian relations and the means to promote them through meetings that will be held between officials of both sides in Amman shortly. President 'Arafat said he will meet with his brother His majesty King Husayn during the last week of this month.

Later, Faruq al-Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, and members of the Jordanian and Palestinian delegations to the meetings of the Jerusalem Committee joined the meeting.

In another development, al-Kabariti met with the Pakistani foreign minister last night. They discussed coordinating the positions of the two sisterly countries in the current meetings of the Jerusalem Committee.

Prime Minister, Nabulus Delegation Discuss Trade

JN1601174495 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1700 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir has conferred with a visiting delegation from the Nabulus Chamber of Commerce on cooperation between Jordan and the Palestinian self-rule authority.

Chamber President Mu'az Nabulsi congratulated the prime minister on forming the government and wished him success, particularly as the region was passing through a critical stage.

During the meeting, which was attended by Minister of Industry and Trade 'Ali- Abu-al-Raghib and Amman Chamber President Haydar Murad, the two sides exchanged views on ways to facilitate trade and the flow of commodities between Jordan and the self-rule areas.

Al-Sharif Zayd expressed particular interest in Jordanian-Palestinian private sector cooperation.

Crown Prince, UN Official Discuss Gulf War Claims

JN1901085095 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 19 Jan 95 p 12

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman (Petra)—His Royal Highness, Crown Prince Hasan on Wednesday [18 January] met Michael Raboin, assistant secretary general of the United Nations in charge of a Geneva-based committee to process claims for compensation for losses suffered during the 1990-91 Gulf crisis.

Compensation for Jordanian expatriates who returned home from Kuwait in the wake of or due to the crisis was discussed at the meeting, which was attended by Interior Minister Salamah Hammad, Minister Labour Nadir Abu-al-Sha'ar and Yahya 'Utaybi, secretary general of the Amman-based Returnees Compensation Committee, and the Crown Prince's advisors.

Mr. Raboin, who has visited several other countries with a large number of Gulf crisis-related claims, arrived in Amman last Sunday and had meetings with the ministers of labour, energy and mineral resources, social development and interior.

Also on Wednesday, Crown Prince Hasan received at his office Andre Pastrana, who represents the president of the United Nations University, and discussed with him prospects for establishing an academy for the university in Jordan to train officials.

During the meeting, which was attended by former Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, who is closely involved in setting up the U.N. University, Dr. Pastrana voiced the university's appreciation to Jordan for its decision to host the academy in Amman and thanked the Crown Prince for his support and back for the project.

Country's Role at Jerusalem Committee Meeting Lauded

JN1901105695 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 19 Jan 95 pp 1, 24

[Editorial: "A Ray of Hope and a Starting Point"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Through its foreign minister and representative to the Jerusalem Committee meetings, Jordan has expressed satisfaction with the results of these meetings held in fraternal Morocco. Jordan has also expressed its support for the contents of the statement, which not only reflects the will of the members of the committee, who represent 16 states, but also embodies the will of the Islamic Conference Organization, which is the major regional Islamic organization.

To be fair, we should applaud Jordan's role in contributing to the success of these meetings. The role it played was based on a cohesive and transparent Islamic view, proceeding from the fact that Jerusalem should unite and not disunite, and that Muslims throughout the world have nothing to disagree on regarding the holy city of Jerusalem, which is blessed by God.

This role, along with the patronage of the chairman of the committee, the king of Morocco, also allowed the meetings to proceed well and to highlight the points of agreement among the representatives of the Islamic states, who reflect the feelings and views of approximately 1 billion Muslims around the world.

In addition to this, the Jordanian-Palestinian-Egyptian-Moroccan coordination also played a remarkable role in unifying stands and crystallizing the common views that all agree on, such as supporting the Jerusalem fund to reconstruct and maintain the city's buildings and national institutions, to house its sons, to address the international community on the dangers of settling and Judaizing the city, and to stress that the city is an indivisible part of the occupied Arab territories and that it is covered, just like the other territories, by the relevant UN resolutions.

Since these important resolutions reflect the constants of Islamic consensus, are based on the resolutions of international legitimacy, and express the Arab and Palestinian rights in the occupied city we have a great hope that these resolutions will be followed up in order to draw the world's attention to them and to put them on the top of the political and diplomatic agenda of all the Islamic states, as well as that of the friendly states in the world, so as to confront the growing dangers against the city, to make the peace process achieve its goals of tackling all the issues of Arab rights without exception, and to prevent the consecration of a fait accompli that threatens the most sacred Arab and Islamic rights.

While these resolutions are translated into well-studied actions, we have great hope that life will be brought back to Islamic action, proceeding from the positive and constructive atmosphere reflected the committee's recent meeting.

Paper Highlights Concern, Care for Jerusalem

JN1901114995 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 19 Jan 95 pp 1, 13

[Editorial: "We Have Always Been Concerned About Jerusalem and We Will Continue To Be"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Our diplomacy has achieved victory in one of its most important stands and in safeguarding the unity of Arab and Islamic stands toward Jerusalem.

Jerusalem has never been and must not be a subject of disagreement among its kinsfolk, the Arabs and Muslims. If there is any misinterpretation of intentions, it should be directed toward Israel's continued occupation of Jerusalem and its denial of its people's rights, and not toward any Arab or Islamic party.

Jordan, under its Hashemite leadership, has always been concerned about the Arab and Islamic sanctities in Jerusalem by taking care of their interests, maintaining these sanctities, and foiling attempts to harm them, Judaize them, and obliterate their character. It has never deviated from the national consensus that Jerusalem is part of the occupied Palestinian territories, and part of the Palestinian national soil in the eastern part of the city in which the holy places have remained under Jordanian custodianship.

When we say that Jordan does not deviate from Arab and Islamic consensus, we add to this that Jordan supports this consensus through its distinguished role and declared concern and stand which will continue to be the object of pride for all its sons, and the sons of all Arabs and Muslims who believe in God.

Our diplomacy in Morocco, which was represented by the foreign minister during the Jerusalem Committee's recent meeting in the Moroccan city of Ifrane, has succeeded in uniting with the Arab and Islamic stands. It has also succeeded in expressing concern, bolstering coordination, and making the Jerusalem issue an extremely important one. We have reminded all brothers of the reasons behind our concern about Jerusalem through the support and backing we have extended. We are looking forward to the day when Jerusalem will return to its people, kinsfolk, and nation.

Our stand is based on our faith in the extreme importance of Jerusalem to the Jordanians and Hashemites, who have been linked with it throughout history. This reiteration and love supports our legitimate call for liberating it and for the Israeli withdrawal from it, not for competing over it.

We should admit that the Jordanian diplomacy is aware of the new facts, and that it is flexible in dealing with them within the Arab and Islamic framework in a way to safeguard consensus, maintain it, and provide it with appropriate content. Our declared stand in Ifrane and our role in coordination and in the success of the meetings were contrary to some sides' expectations. Jordan is an advocate of unity and not disunity, solidarity and not fragmentation, agreement and not disagreement. This is because we are proud of our continuous support for the nation, its causes, and its sanctities. Based on this, Jordan avoided all that would create any differences in an effort to guarantee accord. At the same time, it called for adhering to all that keeps the holy places away from the attempts to Judaize them and to obliterate their character until the occupation is terminated.

King Comments on New Ministers' Responsibilities

JN1701193895 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 17 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Husayn visited the Prime Ministry this evening. He met with Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir for some time, in the presence of the two deputy prime ministers.

Afterward, his majesty chaired part of the cabinet's session. His majesty expressed his support for the ministerial team, which is bearing responsibility at this stage, rising to the challenges, and completing the foundations and bases in genuine and Arab Jordan, within the framework of a state of law and institutions.

His majesty said: All those who shoulder responsibility at all posts should undertake their missions with capability and objectivity. This way, everybody will be able to entrench the foundations of the national march and fulfill the aspirations of our people and its new generations.

His majesty added: This stage requires more efforts and a review of past achievements to allow more and better achievements and to carry out any review or change needed for comprehensive reform. This way, institutions will continue to carry out their duties effectively and efficiently and manage to meet the requirements of this stage. These requirements mandate that work and achievement be primary objectives. Consequently, there is a need to eliminate bureaucracy that hampers the community's administrative and economic progress.

His majesty added: We want Jordan to remain a model for our kinsmen and brothers, thanks to its pan-Arab presence and democratic, shura-based life, political participation and pluralism, as well as its citizens' freedom, awareness, and responsibility.

His majesty further stressed the need for methodical and realistic planning, so that the achievements will match the high expectations of our people, who have suffered for too long and made tremendous sacrifices to preserve the dignity of their country and nation.

Earlier, the prime minister had—in his name and on behalf of the ministers—welcomed his majesty and expressed great appreciation for the visit, saying that he and the ministers were pleased to listen to his majesty's directives. These directives, along with the royal letter of designation, reflect a clear vision that will help the cabinet bear its great responsibilities at this stage, which his majesty wants to be a stage of profound national change. This change will put Jordan on the threshold of the 21st century, having achieved its objectives of progress and prosperity.

His majesty was reassured about several issues that concern the citizens, primarily preparations to receive the holy month of Ramadan and ensure the citizens' needs of commodities and services. His majesty was further reassured about the government's measures to complete the restoration of Jordan's waters in accordance with the peace treaty. He was also reassured about the government's policies to address poverty and unemployment and regulate foreign manpower, as well as about measures adopted by competent agencies to address traffic problems and reduce road accidents.

His majesty was accompanied by Royal Court Chief Marwan al-Qasim.

IAF Cites 'Positive Promises' From Prime Minister

JN1401094495 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 14 Jan 95 p 1

[Article by Ayman al-Safadi]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir has promised leaders of the Islamic Action Front (IAF) that respect for public freedoms and democracy will witness clear improvement in the coming period, IAF sources said Friday [13 January].

IAF spokesman Hamzah Mansur told the JORDAN TIMES the pledge was made during a meeting that took place between IAF representatives and al-Sharif Zayd at the request of the latter Thursday.

Mr. Mansur described as a positive gesture al-Sharif Zayd's invitation to the IAF to the meeting, stressing that the Islamists appreciated this step and would "reciprocate any positive move from the government" towards improving its strained relations with them.

The IAF delegation, which included IAF Secretary General Ishaq al-Farhan and deputies 'Abdallah al-'Akayilah and 'Abd-al-Rahim al- 'Ukur in addition to Mr. Mansur, conveyed in clear terms the Islamists' concern over the "encroachments" on public freedoms in the Kingdom in the past one and a half years, Mr. Mansur said.

"The delegation also clearly articulated our position on the consultations for forming the government from which the IAF was excluded," Mr. Mansur told the JORDAN TIMES.

The prime minister, said Mr. Mansur, understood the IAF's concerns and stressed that "he did not ignore the IAF (parliamentary bloc) and will not ignore it. We heard positive promises."

Immediately after the formation of the government last Sunday, Mr. Mansur expressed his bloc's unhappiness over being kept out of the consultations over the formation of the new government.

Al-Sharif Zayd had met with the leader of the Muslim Brotherhood movement, 'Abd-al-Majid al-Dhunaybat, and other Islamists before announcing the new cabinet, but the meeting did not discuss the composition of the cabinet and Mr. Mansur said the meeting did not involve the IAF bloc.

But despite the positive impression with which the Islamists emerged from Thursday's meeting with the prime minister, observers did not expect the IAF to change its position on the vote of confidence on the government.

The 17-member IAF parliamentary bloc is expected to withhold confidence from the government as a reflection of its ideological rejection of the Oct. 26 peace treaty Jordan signed with Israel, and unhappiness over its exclusion from the consultations over the formation of the cabinet.

"Our position on the government will be determined on the basis of its programme, its team and (the prime minister's) exclusion of our bloc in his consultations over the formation of the government," Mr. Mansur said Friday.

"We cannot accept being ignored," he said.

But observers saw in Mr. Mansur's assertion that the IAF would reciprocate moves for reconciliation by the government a reflection of a strong trend within the IAF which wants to end the movement's political isolation since the signing of the peace treaty.

They also said that al-Sharif Zayd, whose politics they described as being predicated on maintaining dialogue with all political trends, will work towards improving ties with the opposition.

That, however, observers said, will not lead to any concessions on the implementation of the peace accord to which the government is clearly committed.

And since the Islamists are also "concerned with maintaining dialogue with the government to serve the interest of the country," as Mr. Mansur said, observers expect an improvement in the relations between the government and the Islamists, whose relations with the cabinet of Mr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali was marked by tension.

Group Claims To Hold Missing U.S. Military Attache

TA1801181095 London Kanal-6 Television in Turkish 1735 GMT 18 Jan 95

[Announcer-read report over video]

[FBIS Translated Text] Search teams are looking for a U.S. wing commander who disappeared while skiing with his son in Bolu Kartalkaya last Sunday [15 January]. Mike Roland (Couillard) and his son are being sought by 100 U.S. troops from the Adana Incirlik Air Base, three helicopters, and two Turkish teams headed by the Bolu Brigade Commander Yavuz Erturk.

While the Turkish special team says that the chances that the U.S. pilot and his son are alive are very slim, the leaders of the team that arrived from the United States claim that he was used to difficult conditions and that he is currently alive.

There are also various suspicions concerning the fate of the U.S. wing commander, who is in Turkey as a military attache and who, it is being alleged, works for the CIA.

We have just received a report that a person claiming he was calling from abroad on behalf of the Lebanese Freedom Fighters said the organization is holding Pilot Wing Commander Mike Roland (Couillard) and his son Matthew who went missing while skiing in Bolu Kartalkaya four days ago.

Group Reportedly Demands Release of Detainee

NC1901065795 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0638 GMT 19 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Turkish ANATOLIA NEWS AGENCY has reported that U.S. Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Mike Roland (Couillard) and his son were kidnapped on Sunday [15 January] by a group calling itself the Fighters for Freedom in Lebanon. The agency said the group demanded the release of detainee Hajj Mustafa al-Dirani, kidnapped by Israel from the town of Qasr Naba in al-Biqa' on 21 May. According to an informed source close to the Turkish Government, the Lebanese group gave 48 hours for the release of al-Dirani, threatening to kill the two Americans after this time. The Turkish agency gave no additional details on the claim of responsibility for this kidnapping of the American colonel and his son while they were in Kartalakya. They had set out for the city on Sunday morning.

The search for the two Americans was still continuing with the participation of U.S. helicopters, which took off from the American-Turkish Incirlik Air Base near Adana in south Turkey.

'Resistance' Official Denies Kidnapping

NC1901122495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1158 GMT 19 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Beirut, 19 Jan (MENA)—An official of the Lebanese Faithful Resistance Movement today denied his movement had any connection with the kidnapping of a U.S. Air Force officer and his son from a skiing resort in Turkey on Sunday [15 January]. In a statement to MENA, the official, 'Ali al-Husayni, stressed that the Faithful Resistance Movement was surprised by these accusations and the Faithful Resistance Movement being implicated in such an incident. He stressed that the movement does not (?know) about the so-called Freedom Fighters organization in Lebanon, which claimed responsibility for the kidnapping and called for the [release] of Mustafa al-Dirani, one of the leaders of the movement. Israel kidnapped al-Dirani from his home in Qasr Naba near Ba'labakk in the al-Biqa' plain in May.

Al-Husayni said the Faithful Resistance has heard of no organization by this name and its files contain no mention of it. He said the real problem is between the Lebanese Resistance and Israel, which occupies Lebanese territory and kidnaps its leaders. He noted that the movement has nothing to do with the United States other than questioning its political responsibility because of its support for Israel. He affirmed that the Faithful Resistance does not aim to carry out any operations against innocent people. He cast doubt on the claims by the so-called Freedom Fighters organization in Lebanon and on the existence of such an organization under this name.

Afghanistan

Hekmatyar's Militia Reportedly Loot UN Aid Convoys

LD1801183295 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 18 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday, Golboddin Hekmatyar's militia stopped and looted seven truckloads of UN foodstuffs and medicine bound for Kabul.

The correspondent from the BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY writes: Golboddin Hekmatyar had promised to keep all highways open during the current week for convoys of basic materials. It has been reported that the United Nations, taking advantage of this situation, decided to dispatch to Kabul a convoy of foodstuffs and medicine. Despite promises made by Hekmatyar, this convoy was stopped by his militia and looted.

The promise to open all highways has been broken at a time when the people of Afghanistan (?are building their hopes for finding a peaceful solution to the current issues) [words indistinct]. Hekmatyar did not keep his promise regarding the opening of highways. In the light of this situation, a number of people have raised this question of how can one rely on any promise made by Golboddin? He has broken all his promises in the past. Most of the commentators believe that Golboddin Hekmatyar's insistence on the formation of a transitional government with no sufficient military power, is based on this notion that under this situation he would be able to achieve his objective, which is to grasp a monopoly of power by toppling such a transitional government. [words indistinct]

Hekmatyar Launches Unsuccessful Attack in Ghazni

LD1801173295 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 18 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An attack by the Golboddin militia was dislodged today in Ghazni province. A source of the jihadi council of Ghazni Province reported to us that today the Golboddin militia launched an unsuccessful attack, which faced defeat as a result of the counteroffensive by the jihadi council forces of the province and Taleban [religious students sent and supported by Pakistan; a new group that controls four provinces in the south of Afghanistan]. Not only did the Golboddin militia make no gains in the battle but they also lost large areas of Ghazni Province.

India

Paper Views 'Propitious' Climate for U.S. Ties

BK1901110095 Delhi THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 19 Jan 95 p 12

[Editorial: "A Workable Alliance"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India and the United States are now "commercially engaged" declared the US commerce secretary. Mr Ronald Brown, adding for good measure that this was just the beginning of a long affair. The projects worth $4 billion cleared during his two days in New Delhi represent only the "tip of the iceberg", Mr Brown assured his audience. Euphoria on such occasions is not uncommon and helps to make headlines. There was similar enthusiasm when the US energy secretary, Ms Hazel O'Leary visited India and signed as many as four bilateral agreements. It was only on the last day of her high-profile visit that it became clear that none of these agreements would bear fruit until India signed the bilateral science and technology [S&T] agreement, which remains a stumbling block to this day. However, the good news now is that India and the United States are closer than ever before to ending that stalemate and, more importantly, have chosen to get around the issue and build bridges wherever possible. India's assurance to the World Trade Organisation that it is willing to discuss the opening up of the financial sector, especially insurance, has obviously helped. It is to be hoped that the US will reciprocate in other areas like garment and software services exports. So, even as differences persist on the S&T agreement, with the US demanding "pipeline protection" for intellectual property rights ahead of the time-table specified by the Uruguay Round agreement and India preferring to stick to the multilateral agreement, it might be possible to further economic relations between the two countries.

If Indo-US relations are to become more enduring and stable it is necessary that the commercial engagement between the two is sustained and built upon. While the social and economic conditions for the development of deeper Indo-US relations have never been more propitious, persisting suspicions on the security front remain a psychological barrier. The US must show greater clarity in its South Asia policy and not encourage political forces that seek to disrupt peace and security in this region. Admittedly, there is no better method to ensure this than promoting business ties. However, such an alliance cannot be one-sided. It would be a misperception for the U.S. administration to believe that India is prepared to offer business opportunities to the US in exchange for regional security and other political "payoffs"; the economic relationship between the two great democracies must be allowed to flourish on its own merit. Popular sentiment in this country has often felt slighted by the perceived lack of reciprocity to the warmth of the interest shown by India towards the U.S. Indeed, the Indian middle class has long had an adolescent's characteristic love hate "crush" on the US and has never understood why that "love" has remained largely unrequited even as the "hate" has been exaggerated in its interpretation. Perhaps, the current commercial engagement between the two will lead to a more mature and meaningful political relationship.

Brown Visit Called 'Milestone' in Relations

BK1801150095 Delhi DAINIK JAGRAN in Hindi 18 Jan 95 pp 1, 11

[Article by unidentified "bureau chief": "Warmth in Indo-American Relations"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The ongoing Indian visit of U.S. Commerce Secretary Ronald Brown will prove to be an important milestone in relations between the two nations. The trade relations established between the two countries during the last three days will also help in strengthening political and strategic relations between them in the days to come. Addressing a meeting of the CII [Confederation of Indian Industries] yesterday, Mr Brown said that "our economic partnership is at a stage from which the beginning of closeness of Indo-American relations will take place and mutually cooperative policies will be formed."

The ease with which Mr Brown addressed the news conference today did not reflect any signs of the bitterness that arose between the two nations during Robin Raphel's visit last year. No one raised the topic of child labor in the carpet industry, nor was the issue of Super 301 raised. These questions usually always arise during the visit of every important U.S. official.

After the GATT agreement, the matter of intellectual property rights gained momentum. Today, one or two questions on this topic were raised, but no journalist contradicted Brown's smooth replies. Mr Brown stated that reputable U.S. multinational companies have decided to enter India, and these companies are very aware of their copyright rights. During the news conference, Mr Brown acknowledged that the issue of intellectual property had been raised in every official meeting held here.

During his ongoing Indian visit, Mr Brown's message is clear, and he wants to deliver a straightforward signal that improving relations with India is a U.S. priority.

In Mr Brown's presence, trade agreements worth Rs 12,000 crore have been signed between India and the United States. He said he considers this fact very significant.

Today there was a glint in Mr Brown's eyes when the renowned industrialist R. P. Goenka said that U.S. technology was being transferred to the leftist strongholds of West Bengal. R. P. Goenka's company today signed an agreement with the U.S. cable operation company, United International Holding. After completing the formalities, the U.S. commerce secretary talked to Goenka for quite some time.

In his brief speech, the U.S. commerce secretary said that Indo-U.S. relations will reach new heights in the years to come and in the 21st century. Brown is hopeful about the improving relations between the world's two largest democratic nations.

India is also viewing this improving relationship from a new angle. According to the special secretary of the External Affairs Ministry (economic affairs), there has been tremendous change in Indo-American relations in the last three years. He said that after the launch of the economic reforms program, we traveled from country to country to attract capital investment, but within three years, the situation is such that the United States is ready to invest in India on its own.

According to the special secretary, the importance of the delegation of renowned industrialists accompanying the U.S. commerce secretary cannot be overlooked. The United States has decided to develop broad and sustained relations with India. It believes that India will definitely benefit from these trade relations. After this, it will be to the United States' benefit that peace be maintained in the Indian subcontinent, and this will help us in resolving matters like the Kashmir issue.

During his three-day foreign trip, the U.S. commerce secretary made extensive social visits also. On 15 January, he had dinner with Foreign Secretary Salmann Haider and Commerce Secretary Tajendra Khanna. A few other prominent Indians were also present at the dinner.

Throughout his visit, Mr Brown got full cooperation from U.S. Ambassador Frank Wisner. One could bump into the U.S. ambassador and commerce secretary anywhere from the galleries of the Vigyan Bhawan to the five-star Hotel Maurya Sheraton and shake hands with them.

Editorials View Trade Agreements With U.S.

Desire to 'Quicken the Pace'

BK1801084095 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 18 Jan 95 p 8

[Editorial: "Measure of success"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The potential for growth in Indo-US trade and investment in India is undoubtedly being realised. But only in part and far too slowly for the satisfaction of either side. US Commerce Secretary Ron Brown's visit has been an opportunity for both sides to try and quicken the pace. The establishment of an institution, the Indo-US Commerce Alliance, led by the private sector and assisted by both Governments, should prove useful in expanding business by taking a project-oriented approach. The measure of success of this new body for India should be how well it boosts investment in India, improves access to the American market and encourages the transfer of technology. Of the large number of agreements and memoranda of understanding [MOU] signed in New Delhi, the most significant is the MOU on insurance services between the Tatas (returning to a sector they once pioneered) and American International Group, a large US conglomerate. Whatever the precise shape of this joint venture ultimately, it was the ground-breaking event. It simultaneously signals the beginning of the end of the Government's monopoly in insurance services and gives the Americans what they have long sought: a foot in the door. Privatisation of insurance beginning with what is expected to be competitive pressure on public sector giants from the new comers will lead, it is hoped, to measurable improvement in services. For the rest, agreements in telecommunications, power and food processing relate to well-identified areas of foreign investment in India and involve in the case of seven power projects invidious and controversial counter-guarantees from the Government of India.

If Mr Brown chose to say almost nothing in public about intellectual property rights, it would have been for reasons of discretion and not because of lessening American pressure on that front. But it is as well that Mr Pranab Mukherjee spoke about what India expects from the US. Not only has protectionist sentiment grown in the US but non-tariff barriers remain in place. The US continues to use instruments outside the framework of the final Uruguay round agreement and strives to introduce new ones. While it is good to hear that the Clinton Administration intends to give India the attention it deserves, Washington should not be left in any doubt that acceleration in commerce between the two countries will depend on the US sticking to its part of the GATT bargain.

U.S. Pressure 'Indefensible'

BK1701102095 Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 17 Jan 95 p 12

[Editorial: "Bilateral Bargaining"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The U.S. commerce secretary, Mr Ronald Brown, hopes to use his visit to help double US exports to India in the next five years. For this wish to be fulfilled, India will have to further liberalise the trade in services and consumer goods for these are the areas where the US can hope to be more competitive than its European and East Asian rivals. It is precisely in these two areas that India has so far dragged its feet even as it has liberalised imports of capital and intermediate goods. Indeed, even in the area of consumer goods, US companies can resort to tariff jumping by setting up their own production facilities in India, which is no longer difficult, to service the Indian market. So the area of contention remains services, especially financial services, where India is still holding out to secure a fair bargain. The Indian strategy has been based on two principles: first, to insist that any further trade liberalisation will have to be within a multilateral framework, now under the aegis of the World Trade Organisation [WTO], and based on a time frame specified in the Uruguay Round agreement on trade liberalisation; and second, to demand a "quid pro quo", where additional concessions going beyond the Uruguay Round agreement are concerned, in terms of US concessions on export of Indian services, especially computer software professionals, to the US market.

Unfortunately, the US has made demands on India which cannot be described as fair. To begin with, the US has demanded that the process of conforming with the provisions of the Uruguay Round agreement be advanced. The "period of transition" that the agreement has specified, especially in the area of intellectual property rights' protection, will have to be telescoped further if India agrees to what has been termed "pipeline protection". Here, the US would like India to sign the science and technology agreement which provides for such pipeline protection based on procedures of arbitration which are not acceptable to India. Several visiting US leaders and officials have been exerting pressure on India to fall in line on this. So far the Indian government has stood its ground, based on the WTO agreement. Having sponsored the Uruguay Round and brought it to a successful conclusion, it is indefensible for the US to insist on security commitments from any WTO member country which go beyond the WTO framework, for instance in the export of the services of computer software professionals to the US or in garment exports. Here the US has yet to demonstrate adequate evidence of its willingness to pursue a liberal trade policy; instead, there have been crude attempts at protectionism. This is unfortunate. India and the United States can build an enduring and mutually beneficial relationship provided the US is willing to play by the multilateral rules of the game.

Minister Confident of $7.6-Billion Textiles Goal

BK1001032995 Madras BUSINESS LINE in English 5 Jan 95 p 9

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The new textile agreements with the US and the EC are expected to result in additional export worth Rs. 1,100 crores per annum initially if the enhanced quotas are fully utilised, the Textiles Minister, Mr. G. Venkat Swamy, has said.

Addressing a press conference here on Wednesday [4 January], he expressed confidence about achieving the 1994-95 textile export target of Rs. 28,874 crores ($7.6 billion). The exports during 1993-94 was Rs. 21,187 crores.

The benefit to the Indian textile exporters would be higher in the subsequent years, he said. Raw material such as fibres and yarns of international quality would be available at cheaper rates in the domestic market as they had been taken out of the negative list of imports.

This would lead to higher value addition, more export earnings and increased employment opportunities, Mr. Venkat Swamy said.

The Textiles Secretary, Mr. T. S. R. Subramaniam, said the final countdown for dismantling of the quota regime had begun with the signing of these two agreements.

Indian textile industry should now learn to compete internationally and focus on efficiency and quality.

He said the new pacts were signed because it made "good business sense." No other country except India had been able to get an increase in quotas in recent times. The US and the EC were the largest buyers of Indian textiles and there was no point in keeping the agreements hanging.

Mr. Subramaniam said the pacts signed by India would be the last major bilateral pacts for market access. Henceforth all such pacts were likely to be multilateral.

Though all yarns and fibres had been put on OGL [Open General License], there was no threat of imports flooding the domestic market now in view of the wide price difference and the high import tariff of 6 5 per cent. However, the Ministry officials could not provide an clear estimate on the likely growth in imports.

Mr. Subramaniam said the BoP [balance of payment] cover available to the developing countries will be scrapped soon and the textile industry will have to "grow up" to compete in such a scenario. The Government was opening up the sector in a phased manner as it does not want the industry to face any problem.

The Textiles Secretary said the industry was buoyant. He admitted that spinning mills were being closed down in some parts of the country but pointed out that the number was new mills coming up was more. There were 1,190 spinning mills in the country now and 83 of them were set up in 1994, he added.

Mr Ajay Prasad, Joint Secretary in the Textiles Ministry, said there would be no immediate spurt in imports. On imports through the SIL (Special Import Licence) route, he said the Government estimated that net SIL imports in all categories would not exceed Rs. 1,000 crores. Textile imports would form only a fraction of this amount.

Among the items that would be put on the SIL list include ski-jackets, dresses made of synthetic fibres and some types of underwear. Industrial fabrics like gum-coated fabrics and polyesterene fibre-impregnated fabrics would come under OGL. Notifications for placing fibres, yarns, certain types of fabrics were expected within a week, he added.

Joint Oil Refinery Venture Planned With Kuwait

LD1401111695 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 14 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwaiti Oil Minister 'Abd-al-Muhsin al-Mid'aj has said that the two state-owned oil companies, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation and the Indian Oil Corporation, intend to jointly own a 26 percent share in a oil refinery which is due to be built on India's eastern coast.

At a news conference, 'Abd-al-Muhsin al-Mid'aj, who is currently visiting India, said that the remaining shares of this joint Kuwaiti-Indian venture will be sold through public subscription. He added that talks between the Kuwaiti and Indian sides are at an advanced stage and that they now plan to carry out detailed feasibility studies.

The oil minister also said that the two sides are about to sign a memorandum of understanding on this deal, and he added that he hopes they will reach an agreement in the next few months.

Additional Measures Taken To Boost Exports

BK1901004895 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 18 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The center has announced more measures to boost exports. The commerce secretary, Mr. Tejender Khanna, said a task force has been set up to establish satellite air freight (?settings) near important airports. Twenty-two export production centers have been identified for special assistance. The Uttar Pradesh government will get 10 crore rupees as a special allocation to provide a power line exclusively for serving the Moradabad Export Production Center. Mr. Khanna said a concerted effort by exporters and government is the need of the hour to sustain an export growth rate of 20 to 25 percent. He was addressing the first meeting of top Indian exporters organized by the Federation of Indian Export Organizations. Presiding over the meeting, the cabinet secretary, Mr. Surendra Singh, urged the exporters to interact with the state governments to get infrastructure facilities.

Two-Year Ban Reimposed on World Hindu Council

BK1401131795 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 14 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The government today reimposed a two-year ban on the Vishwa Hindu Parishad [VHP, World Hindu Council] under the unlawful activities prevention act. The Home Ministry issued a notification declaring the VHP an unlawful association after the Union Cabinet took the decision in this regard at its meeting yesterday. The VHP was declared an unlawful association after the demolition of the Ram Janambhoomi-Babri Masjid [temple- mosque] structure on the 6th of December 1992. The ban then imposed on the VHP expired on the ninth of last month.

Iran

Commentary Discusses Perry's Regional Tour

NC1901101895 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 10 Jan 95 p 12

[Unattributed commentary: "William Perry's Multipurpose Mission"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Although William Perry's visits to Egypt and occupied Palestine have been justified by the allegation that they are linked with the possible resumption of the suspended Middle East peace talks, the inclusion of Pakistan in Perry's itinerary and the hostile anti-Iranian stances adopted in Tel Aviv have strengthened the assumption that the American secretary of defense is pursuing other objectives in his Middle East and South Asia tours.

We will not go into the joint allegations by the American secretary of defense and the Zionist officials against Iran in this commentary, but will devote a separate commentary to that aspect of the trip. We will only say here that the threat against Iran, which went as far as to threaten a military attack on Iran's nuclear installations being built in the south, will not be very effective. The threats appear to stem from the rage felt over the signing of the Iranian-Russian agreement on making Iranian nuclear installations left unfinished by the Germans operational.

But one of the initial objectives of William Perry's visit to the Middle East was to examine the possibility of deploying American forces in the Golan after finalizing an agreement between the Zionist regime and Syria and the withdrawal of the Israeli army. There should be no doubt that Syria is serious about its efforts to regain and establish its rule in the Golan and that this will not be possible unless the Israeli army withdraws from all the Golan Heights. But at the same time the Zionist officials have clarified that they will not withdraw from the Golan until they have gained the necessary security guarantees.

It is clear that Syria's promises to Israel will not be convincing. It is here that the replacement of the Israeli forces by American forces is offered as the key to a solution. But the issue of who commands the forces that will replace the Israeli troops in the Golan may have been the biggest issue in William Perry's talks with the occupiers of Palestine.

The significance of this lies in America being unable to demote its forces to a mercenary force hired by Israel to carry out a special mission in the Golan. This is an issue of prestige for the Americans. Clinton cannot ignore this, especially when Congress is in the hands of the Republicans, who oppose the Clinton administration. Therefore America prefers that, under any circumstances, it should command its forces that may be deployed in the Golan, even though Israel does not want this.

From Syria's point of view, although an American military presence instead of an Israeli presence is not ideal, it will be more acceptable. At least this is what will help Hafiz al-Asad propaganda-wise to show that he has regained the Golan and that the presence of the American peacekeeping force is temporary. And although the clear link in how the American and Israeli forces act cannot be ignored, at least the soldiers will be American and will apparently be playing a less partial role. Thus this subject too formed one of the major topics of discussion between William Perry and Yitzhaq Rabin, although no need was seen to publicize it.

Among the other important issues Perry discussed with the officials of the occupiers of Jerusalem was how American military and financial assistance to Israel can be continued. Apparently Israel still wants increased American aid and does not see the billions of dollars it receives in regular annual aid as sufficient.

But the problem lies in the Clinton administration facing more economic problems at home each day. Discussion of whether to reduce or continue foreign aid at its current level is heightening in Washington. Of course the two powerful political factions in America—the ruling Democrats and the Republicans—consider aid to Israel to be separate from aid to other countries and, basically speaking, they are not considering whether to reduce the credits allocated to Israel. But it is obvious that any American wish to reduce foreign aid would sound the alarm bell in Tel Aviv and cause concern among Israeli officials that American aid might be reduced or even kept at its current level in the long run. This is at a time when Israel finds it increasingly difficult to meet its needs in view of the growing influx of immigrants from Russia.

Irrespective of the joint American and Israeli expectations of Middle East peace, one of the most important common objectives of both regimes is to maintain Israel's strategic superiority in the Middle East and in the world of Islam in general—an objective that must also have been pursued with William Perry's visit to southwest Asia. Apart from the propaganda aspects of what is referred to as concern over the nuclear potential of Iran or Pakistan, these allegations should also be studied within the above context.

In Islamabad William Perry should concentrate his pressure on Pakistan to ignore its achievements in the field of nuclear technology, because America and Israel have made it their strategic objective to deprive Islamic countries of advanced technology. Pakistan has infiltrated this field of technology and Iran is in the process of infiltrating it. In Pakistan William Perry should try to warn Pakistani officials of Israel's concern, although the Pakistani Government is not one to heed such pressure.

At the end of William Perry's regional tour, speculation is that America has made a new calculation so that it can draw Israel and the Arabs, namely Syria, to Washington to finalize the discontinued peace talks. It seems that there are still obstacles in front of America's objectives. More time and more extensive efforts will be needed to remove these obstacles. William Perry knows this and it is on this basis that he said it is too soon to discuss replacing Israeli forces with American forces in the Golan.

Saudi Criticism of U.S. Propaganda Praised

LD1901105895 Tehran IRNA in English 1011 GMT 19 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Athens, Jan. 19, IRNA—A leading Saudi newspaper has denounced the latest U.S.-Israeli propaganda over Iran's nuclear capabilities as a "sham" aimed at frightening the Islamic Republic's neighbors.

"America and Israel are orchestering [as received] a sham, exaggerating the nuclear capabilities of Iran in order to frighten its neighbors in the region. This game is being played by THE NEW YORK TIMES," commented the English-language "ARAB NEWS" in a recent article.

"The Zionists want to achieve two goals from this game. Firstly to turn the attention from Israeli nuclear power and keep the public opinion busy with the illusionary threat of an Iranian nuclear power."

"Secondly they want to frighten the Arabs with an Iranian nuclear threat to convince them that it is in their interest to allow Israel to keep its nuclear arsenal to foil the threat of Iran," it noted.

The article underlined that continuation of Western partiality towards the Zionist state regarding Islamic issues will certainly prompt in creating an anti-Western public opinion in the Islamic world, not only among the Muslim public, but also among high-ranking officials who make political and economic decisions.

ARAB NEWS warned that "most of the negative stances taken by Western countries towards many Muslim and Arab issues would not help even the ardent Western supporters take a positive stand towards the West."

Kharrazi Interviewed on Israeli 'Threat'

NC1901111395 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 14 Jan 95 pp 1, 14

[TEHRAN TIMES Political Desk report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran—Commenting on an article in THE NEW YORK TIMES, the Iranian Ambassador to the United Nations said, "There is no change in U.S. policy on the Islamic Republic. [no closing quotes as published]

Iran's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Kamal Kharrazi, said "The U.S., from the day of the establishment of the Islamic Republic, has adopted a hostile attitude towards Iran and is still holding the same."

THE NEW YORK TIMES' recent issue admitted that all efforts of the United States to push Iran to isolation has brought no fruit and Washington should therefore adopt a different approach rather than reap adverse results.

Kharrazi, in an interview with the TEHRAN TIMES, said that U.S. policy with regard to Iran was reiterated by Defense Secretary William Perry last week while on a visit to Israel.

Perry repeated the U.S. policy of isolating Iran and for allies to exert pressure by cutting economic and commercial relations with the Islamic Republic.

Talking to the TEHRAN TIMES by phone from UN Headquarters, Kharrazi said, "The U.S. and Israel still believe that Iran should be presented to its neighbors as a threat to them.

"By presenting Iran as a threat to its neighbors, the U.S. and Israel can justify their presence in the region and impose its mind on the regional countries," he said.

Noteworthy experts, commentators and academicians are of the opinion that the U.S. has failed in its anti-Iranian propaganda and that it should adopt a friendly, rather than hostile, approach to the Islamic Republic.

Kharrazi pointed out that the recent article in THE NEW YORK TIMES recommends the same view.

Commenting on a recent threat made by Israel to attack Iranian nuclear facilities, Kharrazi said, "I do not take it seriously as I believe it is just hue and cry made on the eve of the (April) International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] session."

Iran has a number of times declared its commitment to observe the terms of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) of which it is a signatory and inspectors of the IAEA confirm this, Kharrazi said.

The renewal of the NPT is on top of the IAEA agenda in its April session, but a different attitude is espoused by countries of the North and the South.

The South is of the opinion that developed countries should prove their intention in practice as far as the production and testing of nuclear weapons are concerned before any renewal of the NPT is to have any lasting effect, he said.

Kharrazi said developed countries insist on a renewal of the NPT now to take effect forever, without condition.

In answer to a question, Kharrazi said "You know, all Third World countries pin their hopes on Iran for the success of their struggle and this is one of the reasons the U.S. and the Zionists are putting pressure on Tehran."

"Otherwise," he said, "this controversy will continue between the developed and developing countries as a whole."

"Well, the Third World can pin all its hopes on Iran because its policy is based on certain principles which are in the interest of developing and underdeveloped nations," he said.

"Any threat against Iran by Israel, in fact, is a threat against the peace and stability of the region," he said, pointing out that the first country which responded to the Israeli threat was Egypt.

Egypt's Foreign Minister, 'Amr Musa, in a speech Wednesday blasted the Israeli threat against Iran saying, "The threat puts the security and stability of the region at jeopardy."

Kharrazi said, "This is one of the basic rights of Third World countries—to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes and no one can stop them."

Habibi Meets New Pakistan Envoy; Israel Discussed

LD1801221895 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] First Vice President Hasan Habibi met the new ambassador of Pakistan today. Habibi pointed out the extensive joint stances of the two countries regarding regional and international issues, as well as the good relations between Iran and Pakistan, and stressed the need to expand bilateral cooperation.

Stressing the importance of Iran-Pakistan cooperation within the framework of the Economic Cooperation Organization, ECO, and efforts to strengthen the cooperation of the two countries with the Association of South East Asian Nations, ASEAN, in regional and international issues, Habibi said: With a number of Central Asian and Caucasus countries joining the ECO, a suitable climate for more activity has been created that will definitely lead to successes with the cooperation of member states.

Habibi spoke about the importance of establishing stability and tranquillity in the Persian Gulf region and of the cooperation of the countries of the region to prevent the interfering presence of aliens. He pointed to the propaganda efforts of the Quds [Jerusalem] occupying regime to mislead public opinion and hide its possession of nuclear weapons and said: The Qods-occupying regime—through propaganda, sensationalism, and a climate of agitation—intends to justify its antihuman activity of seeking nuclear weapons.

The first vice president repeated and emphasized the Islamic Republic of Iran's stance on freeing the region from nuclear weapons. Announcing Iran's peaceful use of atomic energy, he said: It is the Qods-occupying regime that has nuclear weapons. These weapons must be destroyed.

According to the Central News Unit, Mr. Khalid Mahmud, the new Pakistani ambassador to our country, for his part described the friendly ties between the two countries as unprecedented and stressed his country's interest in expanding ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran. He said the two countries had similar views on regional and international issues and added: The Islamic Republic of Pakistan is also under pressure from major powers because of its efforts to establish a lasting peace in the region. He continued: We believe Iran and Pakistan can strengthen their ties and cooperation and help the stability of the region.

Move Seen Toward Closer Ties With Kuwait

NC1901111495 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 11 Jan 95 p 2

[Editorial: "Regional Countries Should Learn From Iran-Kuwait Friendship"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The visit by Iran's first deputy foreign minister to Kuwait is the harbinger of better days ahead in the relations between the two important countries of the Persian gulf.

Despite the fact that the eighties saw both countries at odds, the nineties has witnessed the warming of relations between the two countries, both of which have suffered the brunt of Iraqi militaristic expansionism.

So the present visit to Kuwait by Mohammad Hashemi signifies a thaw in the cold relations between the two nations. The recent appointment of Kuwaiti Ambassador to Tehran, 'Abdallah 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Duwaykh, has helped expedite the march towards closer cooperation and friendship. His commendable and tireless efforts in building a rapport with the Iranian authorities can perhaps explain the momentum that Iran-Kuwait rapprochement has recently gained.

The Iranian authorities too get a lion's share of the credit for forgetting, and perhaps forgiving, the Kuwaiti support of the Ba'thist regime. Were it not so, the friendly relations between the two countries could not begin.

The two countries stand to benefit immensely from bilateral cooperation. As two Islamic nations, they have more in common than whatever disagreements that have kept them from forming an alliance so far.

The revival of friendship between Iran and Kuwait should serve as a good model for cooperation among the littoral countries of the Persian Gulf. The region is in dire need of inter-governmental cooperation. As Muslims, the nations in the region should rely on themselves for everything from economic to security cooperation.

The first step for starting such multifaceted cooperation is to believe in our own resources and our own resourcefulness to find the solution to our problems without even thinking of asking for outside help.

Scientific Memorandum Signed

LD1801200595 Tehran IRNA in English 1403 GMT 18 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan. 18, IRNA—Iran and Kuwait are to cooperate in educational and scientific fields according to a memorandum of understanding signed in Kuwait, it was announced here Wednesday [18 January].

Upon arrival from Kuwait, Deputy Education Minister Emadeddin Qazavi briefed reporters on the outcome of his 3-day visit to Kuwait and talks with several Kuwaiti officials.

Describing the outcome of his talks with senior Kuwaiti officials as fruitful, Qazavi said his visit led to signing of a memorandum of understanding between the two countries.

According to the memorandum, the two countries will exchange experiences on changing educational system, evaluation of educational documents, exchange of delegations comprising of experts in education and vocational training, Qazavi said.

The document also calls on the two countries to cooperate within the frameworks of international and regional seminars through providing joint projects, he added.

He also said that the condition of the Iranian schools in Kuwait was also among other issues discussed in his talks with the education officials of the two countries.

He also added that during his stay in Kuwait he handed an invitation to Kuwaiti Minister of Education, Ahmad 'Abdallah al-Ruba'i, to visit Tehran. Qazavi heading a delegation from the Education Ministry arrived in Kuwait Sunday on a three-day visit and returned home today.

Rebel Radio on Regime's Ban on Protests

NC1401115095 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1630 GMT 13 Jan 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] On 1 November 1994, the Iranian mass media reported on a bill approved by the Majles under which the regime's Law-Enforcement Forces [LEF] are authorized to use arms to establish law and order and to prevent armed demonstrations. The bill also states that LEF agents using arms legally will not face any punishment and that if innocent people are killed or wounded by them, losses will be compensated by those organizations and bodies whose agents perpetrated the act. The same bill authorizes firing at vehicles carrying fugitives, stolen or smuggled goods, drugs, or illegal arms, as well as at vehicles from which agents are fired at.

In late November, LEF Commander Brigadier General Seyfollahi attended a news conference and announced the commencement of a computer system for investigating crimes and identifying suspects. According to the LEF commander, from now on 53 mobile units equipped with vehicles and computers will patrol the cities and will stop and search suspicious individuals, vehicles, and motorbikes.

Less than one week after Brig. Gen. Seyfollahi's comments, one of the regime's high-ranking security officials called on the 'Ashura Battalions, which have been formed to confront political unrest to set up bases in all cities, factories, mosques, and state and private offices. One day later—on 28 November—Majles Speaker Nateq-Nuri met with the heads and officials of the information ministry, and while praising the anonymous soldiers of the Imam of the Ages for their efforts, he called for their vigilance and further efforts in uncovering and neutralizing plots by world arrogance and their domestic minions against the Islamic Republic.

These were a roundup of reports that were published in the Islamic Republic's mass media during the past couple of months in relation to the regime's emphasis on crushing dissident compatriots. During the time since the approval of the bill legalizing suppression by the Majles, after which the regime has set off on a new program of confronting domestic dissatisfaction, it has also not refrained from its regular programs outside the Iranian borders—that is, the assassination of dissidents and inflicting military blows on opposition forces. And the assassination attempt against Kurdish combatants in Iraqi Kurdistan, the shelling of a Mojahedin [Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization] base 80 km inside Iraqi territory, and the air raids on areas and bases of our party's combatants near (Kuysenjer) in Iraqi Kurdistan are among these acts.

In addition to these so-called security efforts and operations, we have also witnessed various decisions and plots hatched by the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran, both in relation to the revolutionary movement in Kordestan and to the crushing of dissidents in other parts of Iran, and there is no need to list all these in this talk. If there is a specific point that should be discussed here, it is the fact that during the past three or four years the Islamic Republic has had to resort to pressure and suppression more overtly than before and has had to exert more effort to ensure the security of the system.

Thus we have seen why the suppressive organs have been expanded more than before, why thousands of more mercenaries have been organized in the Mobilization Corps, why many battalions have been formed to confront the people, why military and security exercises are carried out each day on one excuse or another, and why the arrests and harassments of the people and the threats by the suppressive forces have further expanded. But apparently all these lacked one thing: the Majles' authorization of the LEF to fire at people who create unrest and who are agents of plots hatched by world arrogance against the Islamic Republic. And, of course, this bill was prepared and approved by the Majles.

Since the outset of the Islamic Republic, it has rarely had to face so many forms of opposition. In Kordestan the struggle by our combatants and the resistance by the masses against the freedom-killing regime of the Islamic Republic continue. From the eastern parts of the country, and especially from among the children of the Baluch people, we are hearing various reports on resistance against the regime. In many cases we witness workers' protests and demonstrations in factories and plants. There is fresh excitement in the university, which shows that the students can no longer tolerate the regime's cultural policies and the criteria set by the officials. Youths are expressing more and more disgust over the chains that have been tied to their hands and feet under the label of observing Islamic dignity.

The regime's insult against the Sunnis' sanctities have raised the level of the Sunni Muslims' rage and aversion to the point of explosion, and have resulted in several clashes and unrest in the past couple of years. Iran's independent authors and intellectuals, who have always been in the leading ranks of the protesting movement during the past four years, have now entered the scene more united than before and have placed the Iranian rulers under pressure to give in to their demands.

Every so often one prominent personality or another inside the country speaks on behalf of the compatriots and bravely reflects the people's protests against the dictatorial and anti-popular regime. And like always, instead of adopting a logical solution to fill the deep schism that has been created between the people and the rule, the regime—which has usurped all the human rights and freedoms of our country's people and has created an extremely heart-rending economic and social situation in Iran—sees the solution in the crushing of the demands by the dissatisfied compatriots.

But surprisingly, the officials of the regime—who for more than 15 years of rule have not achieved any favorable results from their policy of suppression but have only succeeded in rousing the people even more against that rule—do not see that the problem lies in their policies and programs but think that it is shortcomings in their suppressive measures. Therefore, they are only worthy of a fate that each anti-human regime faces when the people's rage overflows.

In this midst it is the opposition forces that should take the existing revolutionary conditions in the country into consideration and adopt the necessary measures. If we accept the fact that many protest acts have been spontaneous, unplanned, and without any specific organization or leadership; if we believe that it is not easy for dispersed struggles and resistance to achieve any results; and if we truly believe that the unity and coordination of the democratic and progressive opposition at home and abroad play an important role in the victory of the struggle against the Islamic Republic, then we should turn to practical measures as soon as possible. Let us do our best to find ways that can consolidate the ranks of the freedom supporters, help our country to achieve happiness, and bring us closer to our aspirations, that are to overthrow the Islamic Republic and bring to power a democratic and progressive regime.

Nateq-Nuri: Satellite Dish Ban Rouses Israelis

LD1801203295 Tehran IRNA in English 1456 GMT 18 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan. 18, IRNA—The extensive propaganda campaign launched by arrogant and Zionist mass media against Iran following the Majles' ratification of a bill banning use of satellite dishes indicated the global arrogance's anger at Iran, the Majles speaker has said.

This also points to the fact that the Majles acted correctly by prohibiting the use of satellite dishes, the speaker, Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq Nuri said while inaugurating the final stage of a holy Koran reciting competition Tuesday [17 January].

Iran's decision to ban satellite dishes prompted many other Islamic countries to follow suit, the Majles speaker pointed out.

Nateq-Nuri, saying that financial problems concerning the enforcement of the bill have been settled, expressed hope that with endorsement of the bill by the Council of Guardians, the law will take effect decisively.

The Council of Guardians consisting of jurists and religious experts who are responsible for endorsing the laws passed by the Majles already faulted some points of the bill, asking the Majles to amend it because of its cost to the government.

The speaker made it clear that to fight the cultural assault of enemies, all symbols of corruption should be obliterated from society.

Elsewhere in his speech, Nateq-Nuri said that becoming accustomed to the holy Koran will protect the young generation from corruption and deviations.

Some 5,000 out of 600,000 contestants have managed to reach the final stage of the holy Koran reciting competition titled Matl-ul-Fajr (Beginning of Dawn). The compettion will last until December 5.

Intelligence Minister Unveils Bank Fraud Case

LD1801205195 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 18 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] This evening, Minister of Intelligence 'Ali Fallahian took part in an exclusive interview with our correspondent explaining a fraud case in one of the branches of the Saderat Bank.

Saying that the fraud case dates back to one and a half years ago, he said: The accused used to receive bank-guaranteed checks without having any money in the bank. The checks were then cashed in through two other bank employees who collaborated with the accused.

He said that around 120 billion tumans [1.2 million rials] were transferred and cashed during the last one and a half years. Fallahian said: This was an act that violated the current banking rules and regulations, and it is therefore considered an offense. He added: The overdrawn level of 6.5 billion tumans, and the added interest for delay in payment by the accused, have already been paid back in cash through the sale of the accused's property.

Fallahian said: In connection with the case, two bank employees have been arrested and detained and other accused persons have been handed over to the judicial authorities.

In reply to a question asking the minister to explain the reason for the delay in the revelation of the case, Fallahian said: The Intelligence Ministry followed up the case in a very precise manner in order to return the people's capital. He added: The revelation of the case too early would have created problems for the return of the misused cash. He said: Some measures have been taken to stop any kind of misuse from now on.

Agriculture Bank Pledges Loans to Certain Projects

LD1901092195 Tehran IRNA in English 0844 GMT 19 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan. 19, IRNA—Managing Director of Agriculture Bank 'Ali Milani says that his bank gives loans for any type of product or services in the agricultural and animal husbandry sectors, provided they present technical, financial and economic justification for their projects.

Milani, interviewed by IRAN NEWS, printed Thursday [19 January], added that the ceiling of loans granted to individuals was rls. 500 million and the maximum loans paid to corporate ones stood at rls. 5 billion.

He said some 3,207,225 customers have deposited a total of rls. 502,658 million. These are "qarzol-hassaneh" accounts (saving accounts without interest), current accounts and short and long term saving accounts which were opened by citizens and companies.

The projects underway by the Agriculture Bank include setting up of a land bank, insurance of agricultural products and a plan for payment of loans without mortgage to farm machinery cooperatives, he added.

The daily quoted him as saying that future projects of the bank include establishment of a guarantee fund and other agricultural projects.

Agricultural Cooperation Discussed With Azerbaijan

LD1801214295 Tehran IRNA in English 1723 GMT 18 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tabriz, E. Azarbaijan Prov., Jan. 18, IRNA—Azeri Agriculture Minister Irshad Aliyev and governor general of this northwestern Iranian province 'Ali Abdollahzadeh here Tuesday [17 January] conferred on Tehran-Baku agro-economic cooperation.

Aliyev at the meeting underlined his government's willingness to make use of Iran's experiences in production of agricultural products.

Abdollahzadeh welcomed Aliyev's request that Iran put its agricultural experiences in production of crops, particularly wheat at the disposal of Azerbaijan. He expressed hope that such cooperation would help with the development of that country.

Rafsanjani Opens Nuclear Units at Medical Center

LD1901094895 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0730 GMT 19 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani this morning opened the cyclotron accelerator installations of the agricultural and nuclear medical center in Karaj. The center is a subsidiary of the Iranian Atomic Energy Organization.

This 30-million electron-volt accelerator is the best equipped and the most advanced accelerator in the Middle East. It can manufacture various radio isotopes required by the country's medical centers and some other radio isotopes needed by industry.

The first products of this center will be the radioactive medicines named Thallium-201 and Gallium-67, which are currently imported from abroad.

Metro Builds Advanced Signaling System

LD1401175395 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 14 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A metro signaling system, one of the most advanced electronic guidance systems in the world, has been designed and built in Iran. Our correspondent reports:

[Unidentified correspondent] Artificial intelligence—used for the first time in the country's metro control system—has turned this metro signaling system into one of the most advanced in the world. Speaking about the system, Mr. Mokhtari, who is responsible for implementation of the project, said: The signaling and automatic control of the metro and railways is one of the glorious projects implemented by Iranian experts. Foreign companies had initially suggested $420 million for the project, but after due consideration and comprehensive studies, we concluded that it is possible to implement the project with the use of about $34 million in foreign currency. Furthermore, the machinery and equipment left from the project will leave us free from foreign purchases and will even allow us to export such technology.

In comparison to the most advanced metro systems in the world, where the waiting time in each station is between two and 10 minutes, the Tehran metro will start with four minutes and will probably fall to a maximum of two minutes at each station as the number of trains is increased.

The metro signaling system has finished its tests and is now ready to be used when other equipment is installed and as soon as a contract is signed with the Tehran metro organization.

Electrical Equipment To Be Produced Locally

LD1901113895 Tehran IRNA in English 0957 GMT 19 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan. 19, IRNA—During the Second Five-Year Development Plan (1995-1999), Iran will save dlrs. 447 million in the manufacturing cost of electrical equipment.

Managing director of Iran Electrical Equipment Company (IEEC), an affiliate of the Ministry of Energy, Mohammad Sadeq Shokuh Nia, told the press Wednesday [18 January] that domestic manufacturers will be able to meet Iran's electrical equipment during the next Iranian year (starting March 21, 1995), therefore, there would be no need to import such equipment.

Shokuh Nia added that IEEC currently underlines production of electrical items which are being imported from abroad by the Ministry of Energy.

He said that IEEC is now equipped with the most advanced technology and computer softwares and is due to design and manufacture electrical equipment, coupled with the use of technical inspection and quality control measures to ensure the quality of the products.

He announced that the company is expected to produce energy saving bulbs as of early next year.

According to the reviews conducted, in a case a million of energy-saving bulbs be manufactured by IEEC and be used instead of ordinary bulbs, some 80 megawatt power will be saved.

The official concluded by saying that Iran is the third country in the region, after Turkey and India, which has obtained the know-how to manufacture electrical equipment.

He said that the company is planning to export its productions to the Persian Gulf littoral states and the Central Asian republics.

Copper Complex Reports Increase in Output

LD1601134295 Tehran IRNA in English 1259 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sarcheshmeh, Kerman Prov., Jan. 16, (IRNA)—The output of Sarcheshmeh Copper Complex in the first nine months of this current Iranian calendar year increased by 25.2 percent compared to the similar period the previous year.

Deputy managing director of Iran's National Copper Industries Company Ahmad Morad 'Alizadeh said here on Monday [16 January] that 9.775,000 tons of copper ore and 279,450 tons of molybdenum, concentrates and industrial lime were produced in the complex in the said period.

'Alizadeh added that the production of the copper smelting unit of the complex over the said period stood at 102,000 tons, indicating a 26 percent increase compared to the corrsponding period last year.

According to the official, 322.8 kg of gold and 1280 kg of silver were extracted from 256 tons of copper residues.

'Alizadeh said that 10 million tons of soil have been excavated from Songun mine at Ahar (East Azarbaijan), which has a proven reserves of 660 million tons of copper ore with a purity of .07 percent.

Chabahar Free Trade Zone Growth Expected

LD1401093395 Tehran IRNA in English 0843 GMT 14 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chabahar, Sistan va Baluchestan Province, Jan. 14, IRNA—Head of the free trade zone of Chabahar, Siyavash Sami'ee [name as received], announced here today that the goods imported through this port, during 1372 (March 93-March 94), amounted to dlrs. 35 million. The figure is expected to increase to dlrs. 45 million by the end of the current Iranian year (ending March 95).

Some 200,000 tons to [as received] sulphurs from Sarakhs would be exported via Chabahar Port shortly, he added.

Meanwhile, exports of minerals, construction stones, dried fruits and dates from Sistan va Baluchestan and Khorasan provinces would begin in the future. He further said the main activity of the zone at present is to import transit commodities, passenger goods and the cargoes of cooperative societies of border dwellers.

Sami'ee specified that some 150 applications have so far been received for investment in industrial sector and fisheries both from domestic and foreign companies like Singapore, France and certain Persian Gulf littoral states. One of the important projects in this region is the construction of an oil refinery, with the capacity of 230,000 barrels a day, he said and added that the refinery would be built with the joint investment of Iran and the foreign companies in Chabahar.

Referring to loading and offloading capacity of Chabahar jetties, he said that the capacity of the jetties is 1.5 million tons which is not completely harnessed at present. Some rls. 250 billion credit has been allocated for expanding infrastructure of the free trade zone of Chabahar. The facilities to be established include completion of water supply network, warehouses, cold storage, breakwaters and gas power plant.

Pakistan

Cabinet Approves Joint Shipping Company With Iran

BK1601143795 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1400 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The Federal Cabinet in Islamabad today reviewed the recommendations of the Labor Task Force and appointed a committee to submit a comprehensive report on them for evolving a labor policy. Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto chaired the meeting. [passage omitted]

The Cabinet approved the setting up of Pakistan-Iran Joint Shipping Company with headquarters in Tehran. The Iranian Shipping Company will have 51 percent and Pakistan Shipping Corporation 49 percent shares of the total paid-up capital of 900 million Iranian rials. This will ensure maximum utilization of capacity of the ships.

The meeting was also attended by the governors and chief ministers of Punjab, NWFP [Northwest Frontier Province], and Balochistan.

Foreign Office Previews Bhutto Visit to U.S.

BK1701140095 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 17 Jan 95 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad: Though the final date of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's visit to the United States are still being negotiated, the Premier would be on a week-long trip to America, including a three-day stay in the trade and investment city Los Angeles, from April 11 this year.

"The final date of her US visit will be announced simultaneously by the Foreign Office and State Department within next 48 hours, but more or less the Prime Minister will start her journey to America on April 10", said highly placed sources in the Foreign Office.

Besides her meeting with President Clinton on the opening day of her visit, the Prime Minister will spend three days in Los Angeles to invite US businessmen for investing their dollars in Pakistan. The other city, where she will stay is New York, to meet several US leaders, including Republicans.

"The focus of her visit will be on new Pak-US relations pertaining to economic, trade and investment areas," said the sources, adding that "This time the US investors will be invited to undertake different projects in telecommunications, computers, agro-based industries and sophisticated textiles."

Pakistan, according to sources in the finance division, is going all out to take advantage by invited US investors in other sectors, as the foreign investment commitment in the energy sector has almost reached a saturation point. However, before the Prime Minister embarks for Washington, spadework at home will be done with the announcement of policies in each sector and package of incentives currently being worked out in these areas.

By the time Bhutto reaches Washington, the first meeting of the Pak-US Consultative Group (CG), following its revival during US Defence Secretary William Perry's visit, would be held to draw a cooperation plan in the defence sector. The recommendations of this CG will be of vital importance in strengthening Pak-US defence relations, though the Premier will separately take up the defence purchases issue with President Bill Clinton, the sources said. The issue of blocked defence equipment worth US $1.498 billion, including US $658 million of 26 F-16s, is not included in the agenda of the CG, although, Perry had said that this CG will provide a basis for the resolution of defence purchases hit by Pressler Law.

As was the Prime Minister had done during talks with Perry, she will make it a point to raise the "even-handed US policy towards South Asian nations" in US also. According to official interpretation, this even-handed policy of the US is viewed as "double standards" on the part of the Clinton Administration. It is felt that Pakistan with its four-decade long friendship with the US deserves to have closer relations with America than that should be the case in Indo-US relations, as India had long been an ally of the USSR. "We should not be treated by the US on an equal basis with India" as this indicates the double standards on the part of Washington.

According to sources, the Prime Minister will ask the US President and a number of other US leaders that America should use its influence on New Delhi for containing its nuclear, missile and conventional weapons building programme. In the same context, added the sources, the Premier will raise the issue of Kashmir for its settlement, not as a mediator, but as a country which is perfectly in a position to force a solution on India in accordance with US resolutions.

In Los Angeles, the Prime Minister will meet business executives and private investors in a number of meetings for which a separate programme is being drawn.

This time, according to sources, the Prime Minister is unlikely to address Congress as she had addressed a joint meeting of the US Congress on June 6, 1989 when George Bush was the US President.

It is also being planned to hold a fashion cultural show either in Washington or Los Angeles during her stay in the US.

Sri Lanka

Security Goes on 'Red Alert' for Pope's Visit

BK1801034495 Hong Kong AFP in English 0312 GMT 18 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo Jan 18 (AFP)—Security forces have gone on red alert in the Sri Lankan capital under a massive security plan being implemented for this week's visit by Pope John Paul II, officials here said Wednesday [18 January].

Police set up additional roadblocks and army troops began combing city streets amid fears that radical Buddhist groups would try to disrupt the pontiff's overnight visit Friday, officials said.

"Our men have been instructed to carry out checks on vehicles entering or leaving the city and to intensify surveillance of all routes to be taken by the papal motorcade," a senior police officer said.

Police intelligence units at the main Katunayake airport have also tightened checks on all passengers.

The pope will be arriving in this predominantly Buddhist nation on the final leg of an Asia-Pacific tour, which has already taken him to the Philippines and Papua New Guinea.

The tight security measures came as the Roman Catholic church appealed to the country's majority Buddhists to welcome the pope in the best of local traditions despite a controversy over a book written by the pontiff.

"We are conscious that our joy in the expectation of this important event has been impaired to some extent by the publication of the book ... in which reference has been made to Buddhism," Catholic bishops said in a statement.

Buddhist monks have decided to boycott the papal visit on the grounds that his best-selling book, "Crossing the Threshold of Hope," contained anti-Buddhist passages.

Despite expressions of regret by the Catholic church here and by the pope himself, the Federation of Buddhist Organisations (FBO), which has been spearheading the protest, has demanded that the pope apologise during the visit.

Posters protesting the pope's visit have appeared in the capital and the FBO said the posters, bearing slogans such "We don't want the pope," reflected the "mood of the Buddhist community."

More than 25,000 police will be deployed for various tasks ranging from security to crowd control while elite police commandos trained in Israel will be providing security for the papal entourage.

Police will also be carrying out body searches of the devotees at 70 "frisking points" to be set-up at Colombo's sea-front Galle Face green where an open-air mass, the main ceremony of the visit, will be held.

The congregation, expected to number around 300,000, will be segregated into 165 enclosures constructed for crowd control purposes. The mass on January 21, is in connection with the beatification of a local priest, Father Joseph Vaz.

Pilgrims will be allowed into the area from late Friday but once inside they will not be allowed to leave the green, police said. The area itself will be declared a "sterile zone" from Thursday to ensure no weapons or explosives will be smuggled in.

Meanwhile, the army will be providing security to about 7,000 Catholics from the war-torn northern Jaffna peninsula when they begin arriving here from Wednesday for the mass, officials said.

Some 80,000 members of the Roman Catholic community of 1.2 million reside in the peninsula, which is controlled by Tamil Tiger guerrillas. More than 70 percent of Sri Lanka's population of 17 million is Buddhist.

Reportage on Government, LTTE Peace Talks

Cease-Fire 'May Be Extended'

BK1301131595 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 13 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Chandrika Kumaratunga said yesterday that the cessation of hostilities between the government and the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] was proceeding well and may be extended. The president, who met the two Norwegians and the 10 government nominees for the cessation of hostilities committees in Colombo yesterday, said: Your task should be easy, as both sides were sticking to the terms of the agreement and the assignment will not be prolonged as the government is anxious to work out a political solution. She told them that the government has asked the LTTE to name dates for talks on political package. The LTTE would give its reply tomorrow during the third round of talks due to be held in Jaffna. The government has prepared its political package and will place before the LTTE when the talks begin on resolving the ethnic problem. The president said that a committee would be appointed by either side if they fail to resolve their differences themselves.

The deputy minister, Anuruddha Ratwatte, said that the system of field commanders talking to each other had worked. Two committees were formed. (?Recently) two Norwegians had arrived, and Mr. (Isen Holmes) will head the committee for Trincomalee and Mr. (Jone Gregorison) of the committee for Batticaloa and Amparai. Two members from the pool of eight will go to Trincomalee and two others to Batticaloa-Amparai. The LTTE's appointees will join the committees in Trincomalee and Batticaloa-Amparai. Minister Ratwatte said that the government and the LTTE had approved each other's nominees. The committees for Trincomalee and Batticaloa-Amparai will function from today. The deputy minister said that the four other committees will be in place by Sunday. Canada and another [words indistinct] will send two representatives each to help the four committees in Jaffna, Mullaittivu, Mannar, and

Vavuniya. The Norwegian representative said that they envisaged no problems considering good will extended to them from both sides. Mr. (Isen Holmes) said that they would not go looking for any cease-fire violations but will only go into the instances reported to them. He said that they would not be operating in no-go areas between the two opposing sides and that he said their task was grossly different from what they did in Yugoslavia, Lebanon, and Africa.

The Operational Headquarters said that there were no incidents reported yesterday.

Third Round 'Satisfactory'

BK1401163595 Hong Kong AFP in English 1455 GMT 14 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, Jan 14 (AFP)—Peace talks between the Sri Lankan government and Tamil rebels appeared to have stalled Saturday [14 January] after the two sides failed to make progress on crucial political issues at a third round of negotiations.

A government delegation returned here from northern Jaffna after concluding a third round of talks with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) without agreement on a date to start talks on a political package, officials said.

Kusumsiri Balapatabendi, leader of the government team, acknowledged that the latest round of talks had not produced the same amount of success as the previous two rounds but rejected suggestions that talks were deadlocked.

"It is not deadlocked. Things have not been finalised. There is acceptance on both sides on the issues," Balapatabendi told reporters shortly after arriving at a domestic airport here from LTTE-controlled Jaffna.

Despite the failure to secure an early date to discuss the political package, both sides decided that the prevailing truce, originally scheduled to last two weeks, should be an open-ended affair.

Balapatabendi said that the two delegations were satisfied with the ground situation while the LTTE had categorically denied press reports that rebel cadres were trying to move closer to military bases in the northeast.

The foreign-monitored truce, which came into effect last Sunday, was holding for a seventh successive day Saturday, military officials said.

Balapatabendi, who described the latest round of talks as "satisfactory," said the government side had offered the LTTE delegation, led by its political chief, Thamil Chelvam, a political package for discussion.

"They accepted the package in principle but could not give us a date to discuss it," Balapatebendi said, adding that both sides would "probably meet" at another round of negotiations.

So far, the LTTE had been reluctant to discuss key issues relating to a political solution to the dragging conflict in the northeast. The first two rounds were devoted to formulating a rehabilitation programme and a truce.

At the latest round of negotiations, the LTTE insisted that the military dismantle an army camp in the north before agreeing to opening up a land-route linking the peninsula and the mainland, officials said.

The five-member government team flew to Jaffna with the hope of securing an early date to start substantive political negotiations. The government said it was ready for a dialogue on important issues by early February.

President Chandrika Kumaratunga initiated talks with the LTTE after leading her People's Alliance to victory at the August parliamentary elections

The LTTE is waging a violent campaign for an independent homeland in the northeast for Sri Lanka's two million minority Tamils, who are a majority in the region.

Talks End 'Successfully'

BK1501134195 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 15 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The government negotiators and the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] representatives, who met in Jaffna yesterday, said that the third round of talks leading [as heard] to end the ethnic crisis has successfully concluded. The cessation of hostilities has been observed by the government to the letter and the LTTE did not violate the truce. The leader of the government negotiating team and secretary to the president, K. Balapatabendi, told newsmen at the LTTE headquarters in Jaffna that the LTTE is very keen to continue negotiations until a solution is found to the ethnic problem. The LTTE has also responded positively on starting a political dialogue to settle the problem. The two sides also agreed on emergency rehabilitation and reconstruction program proposed by the government to rebuild the north. The LTTE has requested the government to set up a development authority to carry out rehabilitation work in Jaffna.

Representatives of the LTTE said that they will extend their fullest cooperation to the team of officials appointed by the government to conduct rehabilitation activities in Jaffna. The government negotiating team included Rajan Asirwatham, Navin Gooneratne, Brigadier Sri Peiris, the naval commodore, (Prasanna Rajaratnam). The LTTE team comprised Tamil Selvam, T. Karikalan, Dominic, Ravi, and Ilamperadi.

Meanwhile, addressing a news conference at St. John's College, Jaffna, the leader of the political wing of the LTTE, Tamil Selvam, expressed the hope that the government's present efforts will pave way for lasting peace. Answering a question raised by newsmen, he said that earlier talks were not successful as they were not conducted honestly. He noted that the previous government under President Premadasa had failed to implement suggestions put forward by the LTTE. The LTTE political wing leader said that the government has not put forward its political package so far and the LTTE has also not suggested any political solution to the present problem. He noted that the talks centered mainly on rehabilitation activities and the economic embargo. He also denied reports that the LTTE youths were building bunkers during the period of cessation of hostilities.

LTTE To Consider Federal System

BK1601113095 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 16 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] has reiterated that it was ready to consider a proposal of a federal system. Leader of the LTTE political wing Tamil Selvam made a statement in an interview with local and foreign journalists in Jaffna on Saturday [14 January]. When asked whether the LTTE has put forward any proposal to resolve the ethnic crisis, Tamil Selvam said that the LTTE will submit a proposal only after it received one from the government. He also expressed the hope that the government would do so in the near future. He said the LTTE launched its armed struggle because the previous governments had made several promises and agreements but never implemented them. Tamil Selvam told the newsmen that the voters of the south have given a clear mandate to the People's Alliance government to solve the ethnic problem. He expressed the hope that the government will find a suitable and lasting solution which would satisfy the aspirations of the Tamil people.

Cessation To Last 'Indefinitely'

BK1901134295 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 19 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar met the heads of all diplomatic missions based in Colombo at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Wednesday [18 January] to brief them on the recent developments in the North and the East and the cessation of hostilities.

Mr. Kadirgamar explained that both the government and the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] had agreed that the cessation of hostilities will continue indefinitely and that the cease-fire was holding thereof. An important aspect of the current negotiations pertains to the question of fishing. The minister said that the government was keen on arriving at a mutually acceptable solution which will ensure the right of fishermen to go out to sea while not compromising the security concern of the Sri Lankan Navy.

On the opening of the land route to the north, Minister Kadirgamar said that the government is willing to open both the Elephant Pass and Sankupitiy route. But, the LTTE had taken up the position that it will agree to the opening of the Elephant Pass route, only if the Pooneryn Army camp is dismantled, which is unacceptable to the Sri Lankan Government. It is hoped that a solution to this problem could be found through negotiations. The foreign minister disclosed that a 40 million-rupee reconstruction package toward restoring normalcy in the Northeast Province, financing a large part through foreign aid has been prepared for full implementation by the government in due course, once peace prevails. The minister concluded by stating that the government's aim was to arrive peace with justice and dignity for all. [sentence as heard] Further talks with the LTTE will be held and the government will soon propose dates, (?and if) accepted, the dates for talks on a political solution of the ethnic problem will also be set in the near future.

President To Decide on Unresolved Peace Talk Issues

BK1701125795 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1104 GMT 17 Jan 95

["Pool item"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, 17 Jan—President Chandrika Kumaratunga will decide either today or tomorrow on the three issues left unresolved during Saturday's [14 January] third round of peace talks in Jaffna, government sources said yesterday. The three issues are: Fishing in the northern and eastern seas, lifting of the economic embargo, and the opening of a land route to the Jaffna Peninsula.

The LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] delegation on Saturday briefed the government side of the hardship experienced by the northern fishermen due to fishing activity being limited to daylight hours and the fishing area to two miles from the coast. The government delegation had indicated that the limitations placed on fishing would be progressively relaxed depending on whether the cessation of hostilities is holding or not. "Since the cessation of hostilities is holding and things look brighter, the president is looking into the matter of relaxing the restrictions", the sources said.

On the issue of lifting the economic embargo, the president studying the possibility of lifting the ban has already lifted the ban on 50 items—28 on August 30 and 22 on Tuesday. [sentence as received] She is also studying the question of a land route to the Jaffna Peninsula. The government delegation headed by presidential secretary, Kusumsiri Balapatabendi, reported the outcome of the talks soon after their return.

The Tamil people, meanwhile, are praising President Chandrika Kumaratunga for her Thai Pongal [Tamil festival] message over the radio and television. The president spoke in Tamil. "She delivered it very well.

Her accent was very good", said a leading Tamil educationist. In her message, the president expressed the wish that the current year would bring peace to the country. She called the cessation of hostilities, currently in force, as the harbinger of peace. "We must approach the causes for the current conflict with care. We must reconstruct the damaged properties. We must settle the displaced people in their original homes. We must give a new hope to the affected people", the president said.

Reports from the north and east say the people of these areas celebrated Thai Pongal with greater enthusiasm. In Trincomalee, a peace festival was celebrated and over 10,000 persons participated. The operational headquarters said the cessation of hostilities held for the eighth day yesterday.

Two BBC Journalists Accused of Sacrilege Behavior

BK1701132795 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1123 GMT 17 Jan 95

["Pool item"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, 17 Jan—The director of government information, Ariya Rubasinghe, said Tuesday [17 January] that he would be taking action against two BBC journalists who are alleged to have caused sacrilege at a Buddhist shrine at Dikwella in Southern Matara District, if they are found guilty of charges filed against them in the magistrate's court there. The director-information who grants official accredition to all local and foreign journalists working or on assignment in Sri Lanka, told LANKAPUVATH that he would be consulting the minister of media, tourism and aviation, Dharmasiri Senanayake, on the incident concerning the two Colombo-based BBC journalists—George Arney and Frederick Bradshow. The two journalists, reportedly doing a documentary feature for BBC World Service TV, and their female guide were arrested by police at Dikwella on Sunday evening on a complaint made by the chief incumbent of the Godauda Sri Sumanaramaya Temple at Dikwella.

The two journalists were produced before the Matara acting magistrate, W. Abeysuriya, and released on rupees 3,500 cash bail while their female guide was granted personal bail of rupees 25,000. On their return from the sacred southern city of Kataragama, the two BBC correspondents had visited the temple. It was alleged that while the driver of their vehicle and the female guide engaged the chief incumbent Venerable Dikwelle Tissa Thero in conversation, Arney and Bradshow had entered the shrine room of the temple and were reportedly observed taking photographs of the Samadhi Buddha statue with one of them seated on the lap of the statue. They were reported to have been detained by the monks and members of the public and later handed over to the police, as they had allegedly refused to hand over the exposed films.

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